

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1926

Planning Laurier's future

Page 3



TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

Lethal residence fire started by victim

LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A fire that broke out April 14 on the fourth floor of Wilfrid Laurier University's Waterloo College Hall (WCH) student residence is believed to have been started by the first-year student who died as a result of injuries suffered in the fire.

"We believe that primarily the victim in this case played a role in the fire," said Olaf Heinzel, public affairs co-ordinator for the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS).

Though he could not go into further details as the fire marshal is still waiting for results from the forensic department, Heinzel noted that "some accelerant ... was used in the fire."

"We are still waiting for some test results to come back," he said. "The testing will help us determine what chemicals may have been used [to spread the fire]."

Heinzel said that it could take months for the findings to be released, noting that "other factors may play a role in [the fire marshal] being able to provide a report."

19-year-old David LaForest died in a Hamilton hospital after suffering from the severe burns he received in the WCH fire. On the evening of April 14 students saw him being carried outside of the building by a residence life don.

Following the fire, damage to WCH residence was so severe that students had to be relocated to hotels and vacant student residences for the remainder of the semester's exam period.

According to assistant vice-president of physical resources Gary Nower, damages totaled \$1.3 million, which will be covered by the university's insurance policy.

Repairs to the building – including fixing structural and electrical elements, as well as cleaning and replacing furniture – were completed Aug. 20 in time for 320 students to move into the residence on Sept. 7.

Summer of unemployment

ARSHAD DESAI
CORD NATIONAL
LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

"I was out of a job then for over a month," said Sven Nyman, a second-year arts student at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Nyman is one of many students who has felt the repercussions of the recession on the student job market this summer.

Student jobs scarce

Statistics Canada reported a 21 per cent student unemployment rate, the highest it's been since the 1970s.

The majority of students rely on summer employment to offset financial burdens they incur while at university from September to April.

With the national job loss count at 414,000 since October, this summer many students have been unable to secure work.

"I've barely been getting 10 to 15 hours, sometimes just eight hours a week," explained Nyman, whose part-time summer employment is failing to meet his current financial needs.

"You need full-time [work] to save up enough money, because [Ontario Student Assistance Program] OSAP just isn't enough," said Nyman.

Following a summer of unemployment Nyman, and thousands of others, are now left searching for alternative solutions – such as taking out private loans and keeping jobs throughout the school year – to fund their education.

Co-op students struggle to find placements

Karen Lazenby co-op coordinator at Laurier said that there has been a decline in the employment rate for

students who were looking to complete a summer work term.

"In 2007 co-op rate was 98.6 per cent, last year it was 97.9 per cent and this year it is 96 per cent," said Lazenby.

Though an increased number of co-ops were unable to find placements, Lazenby noted that these students will still be able to stay in the program.

"Students who participated fully in the job application and interview process but were not successful in obtaining a work term are eligible to continue in co-op."

However, to graduate with co-op the standard requirements must still be met, meaning that students "will complete their third work term before they graduate but will not be charged an additional co-op fee," explained Lazenby.

With the student unemployment rate at its highest in 30 years, many feel that this is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately.

WLU offers students support in budgeting

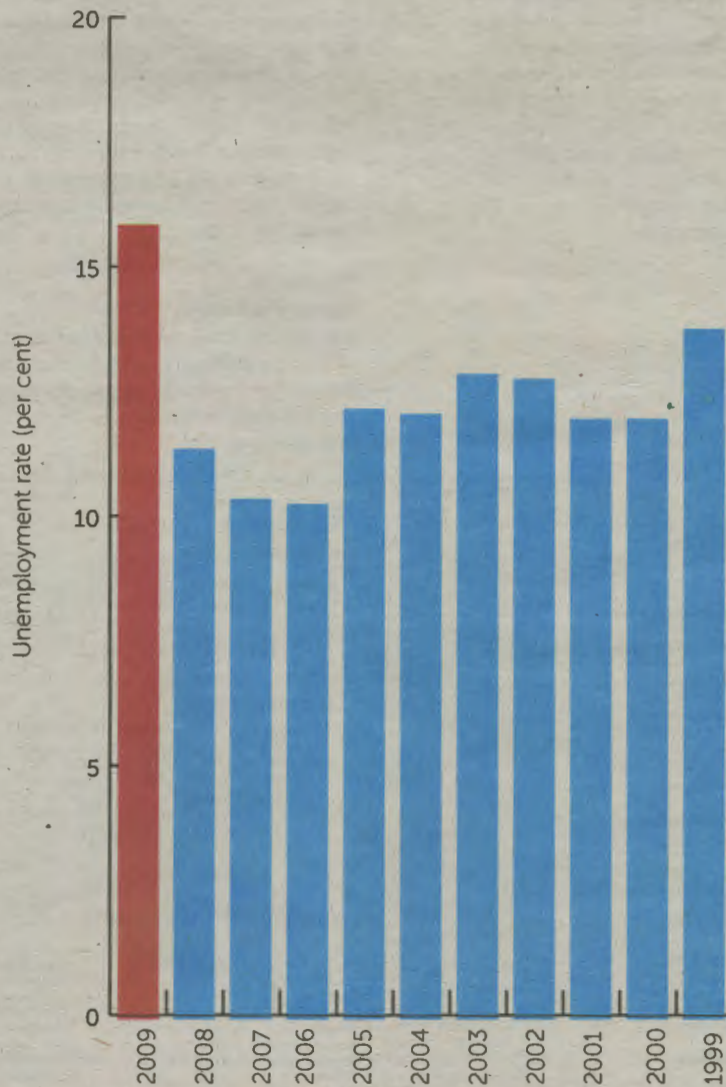
Kory Preston, vice-president of university affairs for the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union, noted that the union has created a financial resource committee in response to students' financial difficulties this year.

The committee's main objective will be to assist students in creating financial budget plans.

"The idea behind the financial resource committee is really to provide what we saw as a service that wasn't being provided at the time," said Preston.

"[Students] will be able to sit down with a committee member and the

June unemployment rates, Canadians age 15 to 24



Inside

Waterloo bares it all

Uptown's busker festival draws more than a family crowd

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Arts venues in Waterloo

From theaters to art galleries, a guide to culture in town

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How O-Week evolves

An examination of the week before classes, over four years

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Editor-in-Chief Laura Carlson • lcarlson@thecord.ca

This is The Cord



LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This edition of The Cord marks an important moment in the rich history of our 84-year-old publication.

At 44 pages, not only is it the largest issue we've ever printed, but it also marks the launch of an important change in the design and content of the publication.

After introducing new sections of the paper in May – In Depth, Local and National – and significantly overhauling others – Life and Arts – the final version of our printed product is now complete.

Most significantly, you'll note an important difference in the flag of our paper; we are now simply The Cord, and no longer The Cord Weekly.

We have published as The Cord Weekly since 1958, following the merge

of two campus papers (the *College Cord* and *Newsweekly*).

The newspaper industry is vastly different today than it was 50 years ago and the "weekly" no longer seems representative of what it is we do.

We exist to report on what is important to the Laurier community and offer a platform for dialogue about issues currently affecting students.

With the increasing immediacy of news, if we solely provided a weekly digest of campus events we would not be fulfilling our role.

We aim to be the campus' constant source of information.

As online news readership increases, we hope that you'll visit our new website, thecord.ca, frequently, as well as engage with us through various new media platforms.

We recognize that we need to continuously adapt to serve our readers, and though the medium we exist in may continue shifting, The Cord's mandate of serving our readers in the Laurier community will never falter.

Please provide any feedback on these changes to lcarlson@thecord.ca

This month in quotes

“No matter what you get your degree in, no matter what your subject or you major is, make sure that you are doing something that you love.”

– Allison Williams, “Isabella” of the Aerial Angels



“What we're looking at doing is a 25 year master plan, about how both the Laurier campus and the Brantford campus will look like 25 years from now.”

– Paul Puopulo: General Manager IBI Group.

“I still get chills when I think about it or watch the tape of the post-game celebration. It was the thrill of a lifetime.”

– Manager of football operations and head coach Gary Jeffries, on Laurier's 2005 Vanier Cup win.

“It honestly makes your university life.”

– Amanda Paquin: VP: External for the Commerce and Administration Students' Association, speaking about the annual JCD competition aka. Olympics for biz kids.

“I won't be washing my hands of the whole thing. ... It just needs some new energy and if I can help with that I will.”

– Dean Boles coach of Laurier's swim team for 22 years before he announced his retirement in July.

Vocal Cord

What do you think of Laurier's new facelift?



“It looks absolutely beautiful... They've given our campus the facelift it needs.”

– Claire Petch
Fourth-year English



“It looks good, the ramps are more reasonable for people in wheelchairs.”

– Joclyn Smith
Third-year communication studies



“Outside looks good but interiors of some buildings need more work.”

– Saurah Tdwai
First-year MBA



“Hopefully it will look good when it's done, right now it looks horrible”

– Stephanie Reich,
Fourth-year biology

Compiled by David Goldberg
Photos by Nick Lachance

From the archives

The tie that binds

In the Jan. 24, 1969 edition of *The Cord*, the editorial board placed a call-out for newspaper name suggestions because of the irrelevance of “The Cord.” This was a response printed in the letter section the following issue:

In light of comments in the Jan. 24 issue of *The Cord*, I wish to share this information:

The name “The Cord Weekly” does have special meaning for Waterloo Lutheran University and its students, faculty, staff and friends.

In designing the crest for this institution back in the 1930's William H. E. Schmalz, a K-W architect, designed what has become the official WLU crest. Along the top of the shield of the crest he placed a purple and gold length of cord that was to symbolize the unity of all the members of the academic community. In other words, we are bound together in friendship, loyalty, and respect in our quest for truth and beauty.

The purple and gold cord was adopted as the name of the student newspaper. It would be the hope of many members of the academic community, past and present, that this name would be retained as the one of the fine traditions of WLU, now 58 years-old.

Sincerely,

Henery Endress

Vice-president, University Resources

5 years

Laurier's current dean of students, David McMurray, was presented with the highest award of honour from Canadian Association of Colleges and University Student Services (CACUSS) in June 2004. This award was given to him after his two-year term as president of the organization.
Printed Sept. 9, 2004

25 years

WLUSU introduces SAFE program

The student's union, in response to incidents of violence that occurred around campus over the previous year created a SAFE (Students Aware of Friends Everywhere) program. It included a “walk” program, awareness week and a promotional blitz.

The “walk” program had six routes, including one down Albert, Hazel, and Marshall St. Students would gather in the concourse after their night classes and walk home with the group headed on their route. Initially the walk was lead by icebreakers, but the plan was to eventually have students organize walks themselves.

Printed Sept. 7, 1984

35 years

Campus pub opens

On Sept. 15, a full-time establishment, called the Turret Pub, opened at WLU. The university faced the most resistance from the local hotel, who feared that the new WLU pub, combined with the one at UW, would take away all their business.

Printed Sept. 19, 1974

THE CORD

The tie that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1924

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Colophon

The Cord is the official student newspaper of the Wilfrid Laurier University community.

Started in 1926 as the *College Cord*, The Cord is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications, Waterloo, a corporation without share capital. WLUSP is governed by its board of directors.

Opinions expressed within The Cord are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, the Cord, WLUSP, WLU or CanWeb Printing Inc.

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wlusp Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications



Preamble to The Cord constitution

The Cord will keep faith with its readers by presenting news and expressions of opinions comprehensively, accurately and fairly.

The Cord believes in a balanced and impartial presentation of all relevant facts in a news report, and of all substantial opinions in a matter of controversy. The staff of the Cord shall uphold all commonly held ethical conventions of journalism. When an error of omission or of commission has occurred, that error shall be acknowledged promptly.

When statements are made that are critical of an individual, or an organization, we shall give those affected the opportunity to reply at the earliest time possible.

Ethical journalism requires impartiality, and consequently conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest will be avoided by all staff.

The only limits of any newspaper are those of the world around it, and so The Cord will attempt to cover its world with a special focus on Wilfrid Laurier University, and the community of Kitchener-Waterloo, and with a special ear to the concerns of the students of Wilfrid Laurier University. Ultimately, The Cord will be bound by neither philosophy, nor geography in its mandate.

The Cord has an obligation to foster freedom of the press and freedom of speech. This obligation is best fulfilled when debate and dissent are encouraged, both in the internal workings of the paper, and through the Cord's contact with the student body.

The Cord will always attempt to do what is right, with fear of neither repercussions, nor retaliation. The purpose of the student press is to act as an agent of social awareness, and so shall conduct the affairs of our newspaper.

Quote of the week:
“I have a dream – if you all want to show it.”
– WLUSP President Bryn Osington, after being asked if he had any snacks for the Ed Board by Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy.

NEWS

News Editor Lauren Millet • lmillet@thecord.ca

Laurier’s strategic planning

Plans are being formulated with regards to the future of the university

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

To celebrate the university’s 100th anniversary, which takes place next year, Laurier will be developing two new things: a Laurier-authentic narrative and a new visual identity.

The narrative will explain what the institution stands for and what it wants to strive toward: leadership, community and experiential learning, both inside and out of the classroom.

“The concept there was to try and maintain Laurier’s strengths that were really revealed through the envisioning exercise,” commented dean of students David McMurray.

Master plan

A 25-year master plan for Wilfrid Laurier University is now entering the final quarter of its development. It has the aim of creating a vision for how the campus will look in the future, with the majority focusing on five to 10 year time frames.

“The focus for the Waterloo campus will be the development of open space and pedestrian walking systems,” said Paul Puopolo, general manager of the IBI Group, who has been handed the task of developing the master plan.

According to Puopolo, the development of student residences will be one of the immediate focuses. The residences they are currently assessing include Laurier Place, Regina St. Macdonald House and Willison Hall.

Max Blouw, president of Laurier, explained that the master plan is a fairly common undertaking for universities who are anticipating major capital changes in the future.

“Most universities, in order to be strategic ... tend to have a plan that they update every five to seven years. “[The plan] helps them to look into the future and anticipate what to do ... as growth occurs,” said Blouw.

He added that Laurier has not had a master plan for many years, and that it is important for the school to do an evaluation of the current infrastructure, as well as plan for future growth.

Part of the master plan is for Laurier to focus on its multi-campus concept, by maintaining the strengths of the Waterloo campus and using them as a foundation when building other campuses.

“The word small is often associated with the [Laurier] campus. So rather than get too big, and threaten the characteristics that have defined us for so long, the idea is to duplicate that

experience in another location,” said dean of students David McMurray.

In 1999 Laurier opened a Brantford campus, which in 10 years has grown from 38 to 2290 students. This campus is where Laurier will be focusing much of its growth over the next few years.

“Brantford is a place we hope to grow considerably. They are actively working on new academic programs in order to draw in more students.”

He added that the same strategy would be for Milton.

Last year, the university signed a three year memorandum of understanding with the community of Milton. The memorandum allows Laurier to explore the possibility of building a campus in the city.

According to McMurray, the benefit of having several smaller campuses is that you maintain the feeling of being at a small university while still having one focused identity.

“So whether you’re in Brantford, Waterloo or Milton you know you’re at Laurier.”

Laurier dean of arts, David Docherty, has been hired for a three-year term as senior advisor, multi-campus initiatives, to facilitate the much-needed conversation between faculty, staff and the community regarding the Milton campus.

“We’ve established multi-campus locations, but we haven’t paid enough attention to how we govern ourselves in that reality,” said Blouw, explaining that Docherty will be responsible for strengthening the governance between all Laurier campuses.

“While Milton will be part of the focus of Docherty’s position, it will not be the main focus initially.”

A new visual identity

Along with the narrative regarding the future of Laurier, a new image will represent the international face of the university.

“The whole purpose behind [the new visual identity] is to have something that really does represent the university globally,” said McMurray.

McMurray noted that the university has been represented by various visual signifiers over the years, and that right now the word “Laurier” is appearing prominently in marketing materials.

“The word Laurier has come into its own,” said McMurray.

“So all of the new marketing contains just that word. Whether that will survive as the new visual identity or not, we won’t know just yet,” said McMurray.

“The knee-jerk reaction is to say that we’re challenged by increasing enrolment to maintain a quality and exceptional student experience. But we’re meeting that challenge, and we’re motivated to meet that challenge.

– David McMurray, dean of students

Academic planning

One aspect of Laurier’s vision for the future is redefining the university’s academic plan.

“We do have an academic plan called the century plan,” said vice-president of academics Deb MacLachy. “That plan, however, is a few years old. Generally, universities will renew their academic plans every five years or so. We’re about due to develop a new plan.”

Over the last two or three years, the university has spent a lot of time identifying what Laurier is and what the university’s mission as an institution is. According to MacLachy, the next step is developing an academic plan that grows out of that mission.

“I have been working closely over the past few months with the deans of the faculties to develop a framework for an academic plan,” said MacLachy.

That framework will be presented at the first senate meeting of the academic year, which will be held Sept. 15.

Following that, there will be an opportunity for members of the Laurier community to add input, which will help further develop the plan. Depending on how that goes, MacLachy says Laurier can expect a formal academic plan within the next six to 12 months.

“Generally what an academic plan will do is lay out what you are as a university now and the role of universities in general in society,” said MacLachy.

“And then specify over the next period of time how you think Laurier will live up to its mission and vision through its academic programming.”

Student experience

With Laurier growing each year, and a future plan currently in review to develop, a major concern revolves around how all the growth will affect students and their experience at the university.

“We’re trying to keep the big small. As we get bigger, we have to think how can we maintain that sense of belonging, that sense of recognition and respect of students as individuals, without getting lost like they do at larger universities,” said McMurray.

He added that while some students may want to be one face in a crowd of many, Laurier students expect more than that.

“I think that’s the challenge,” said McMurray.

As the student population has increased, McMurray noted that the university has been able to offer more resources to ensure that the student experience has not suffered, despite growth.

“When I started [in 1999] there was so much that didn’t exist,” said McMurray.

“Now there are so many more people in student affairs leading these programs, we’re just doing an awful lot more than ever before.”

McMurray explains that because growth is threatening Laurier’s small-school atmosphere, there is a strong focus on the multi-campus initiative.

“We want to try and build what we’ve got at the Waterloo campus, at Brantford and Milton as well.”



“The Master planning is a glimpse into the future, a notion as to how the campus will evolve in the future as we replace old and as we grow with new.

– Max Blouw, Laurier president

2004



Laurier’s Waterloo campus has seen significant changes to its physical presence over the past five years. As enrolment increases annually, change it is sure to continue into the future.

2009



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER



GREG MCKENZIE FILE PHOTO

The Brantford campus has experienced significant growth, going from 38 to 2290 students in 10 years.



GREG MCKENZIE FILE PHOTO

The size of the incoming first-year class has forced WLUSU to hold two O-Week opening ceremonies.

Enrolment brings change to O-Week

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

This fall, Wilfrid Laurier University welcomes its largest group of incoming first year students (3540 registered at the Waterloo campus), 80 per cent of which will be participating in Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union's annual Orientation Week.

Facilities on campus that have been used in the past are unable to accommodate these numbers and as a result O-Week will now be forced to adapt.

"It hasn't actually, in looking through the internal schedule, affected too many things. The one major change we've seen is with the opening ceremonies," said Burton Lee, assistant vice-president: first year experience for WLUSU. "Now we're going to be doing two opening ceremonies."

The first year students will be split into two groups, based on location of residence, in order to ensure that each color team has equal representation at each event and that all students have the opportunity to experience the opening ceremonies.

The Athletic Complex is unable to seat everyone, but with two waves, residence life dons will be invited to join the activities.

The increased number also means that an increase in volunteers is needed to ensure that students receive the same attention and guidance as they have in previous years. WLUSU has brought back the GO Team, which aids in food service and line control for the week; they have also hired more student volunteers to help run events.

"There are still only four teams, they are a little bigger, so there's more ice breakers, but that just gives even

more people the chance to volunteer," said first time ice breaker for the Green Invaders Dan Towers.

The number of people attending each of the two waves is expected to be around 2000, which, despite being smaller than last year's orientation group, is comparable to the numbers from only a few years ago.

"It really doesn't matter because we're going to make it work," said April Bannerman, head ice for the Gold Vikings. "Nothing is going to change the effect or the point or the overall feel of the week."

Organizers are expecting that having two groups will not change the overall experience of the week and it will live up to its previous successes.

In addition to the hiring of more volunteers, the O-Week team has also used a summer conference and volunteer boot camp to ensure that everyone involved is fully prepared to provide the best opportunities for their students during the week.

"It's really just hammering home the message that [as a volunteer] you can really have an impact on first year students," said Lee.

Shinerama has been a central focus during O-Week, which encourages first year students to get involved in the community and raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis.

While an increase in students prompts the expectation that there will be an increase in monetary fundraising, the main goal of O-Week remains to provide students with the best possible introduction and first experience at Laurier.

"No matter what amount is raised we're happy with it, and the real ... importance is that we're raising awareness for the cause," said Lee.

Laurier's environmental initiatives

TARYN ORWEN-PARRISH
STAFF WRITER

By placing an increasing emphasis on environmental sustainability Wilfrid Laurier University has made, and will continue to make, several changes to its day-to-day operations. While the benefits of these changes are primarily environmental, they also extend to reducing costs.

Since June, Laurier employees have no longer received printed pay stubs. Employees now have only an online pay stub, which they are able to access through Laurier Online Registration and Information System (LORIS).

"For human resources, it's a great step towards a more green department," says Pamela Cant, director of total compensation of Laurier's human resources department.

"[We are saving] between \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year in printing costs alone, not including the staff time required to sort [the stubs] and for them to be distributed by department," she said.

It is estimated that the switch will save over 5000 pay stubs from being printed each month.

In January 2009, library receipts also became paperless, saving an average of 1000 slips being printed everyday. Receipts are now only printed upon request, as patrons can monitor their accounts online through the library system TRELIS.

According to Don Hamilton, manager of information and technology at the Laurier library, 75 per cent of library patrons have since chosen not to have receipts printed. Cutting down on the volume of printing not only saves paper and extends the life

of printers, but saves about \$300 per year.

"Not a lot of money [will be saved], it's more the fact that it's environmentally friendly, saves you time and you have up-to-the minute information about your library account online," said Hamilton.

Beginning this September, the Laurier Bookstore will also be working on a number of eco-friendly practices, such as charging \$0.05 per plastic bag.

Such an initiative has taken the same form as a recent Toronto by-law, designed to reduce the number of plastic bags heading to landfills.

Gary Nower, assistant vice-president of physical resources at Laurier, states that the changes in production are indicative of campus support for more sustainable practices.

"Students and staff are right behind it and [are] supportive of these initiatives."

Nower highlights the importance of Laurier's environmental sustainability office, which will be opened in the fall.

At the 2009 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union elections, students voted to increase the \$0.50 per term green fee to \$5, with the profits helping to fund the new office.

"WLUSU is moving to higher sustainability, [by implementing] an officer that can pull everyone together effectively," said Nower.

Nower continued, stating that the most important environmental changes on campus need to be behavioral.

"We can put in new bins and switches, but if no one uses them, we've come no further."

Nower states that the availability of information, which will be provided by the sustainability office, can help generate change. "[More information] needs to be made available. We've got

to let people know what they can take advantage of on campus."

Nower's hope for the upcoming year is to find an individual to fill the role at the sustainability office.

"I don't know where we've been in the past, but I'm happy with where we're going. We're moving forward in a good way, and it's exciting for the university."

Katherine Laycock, environmental awareness co-ordinator for the EcoHawks, a campus club devoted to improving ecological practices at the university, believes Laurier to be an environmentally conscious community and is happy with the recent changes to operate in a more sustainable manner; however, she knows that there is still a long road ahead.

"There's always room for improvement. We're starting [to make changes] but it will take time to take us to the level we should be at."

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COURTESY OF THOMAS GAYLOR

Thomas Krech, left and Thomas Gaylor became the first Canadians to be hired by Arthur J. Gallagher.

Two Laurier business students land U.S. internship

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

Two Wilfrid Laurier University business students were given the opportunity to experience working for a multinational company this summer when they were hired by the American-based insurance firm Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Thomas Gaylor and Thomas Krech, both heading into their fourth year at Laurier, were the first two Canadian interns hired by the multi-national company, which just completed a takeover of a Canadian based insurance firm. The Canadian sector of the company is now called Gallagher-Lambert.

"[The hiring of interns] has gone on for over two decades now, but this is the first time they have hired two interns from Canada," said Gaylor.

"They are really trying to integrate the [Canadian sector] with the US operation."

"At first I was really unsure about the whole internship, but when I saw some of the schools that other people were coming from – and there's Berkeley, Texas Tech, Cornell and other big name schools – it really made me view Laurier on a much higher level," said Gaylor.

Krech continued, saying that the fact that the two interns came from Laurier speaks very highly of the business program here.

"It really opens your eyes because you always hear about how great Ivy is or Queen's is, but you don't really hear about Laurier. It just goes to show [that Laurier] really is in that same tier."

Krech made reference to the fact that the opportunity was a great way to build connections with people in the United States, as well as communicate with and learn from, the top directors of the company.

The guys did not have a set role within the company during their internship; instead it was more of a learning experience for the future.

"They really want to invest in people for the future. It was a lot of learning about the industry, and I have a better appreciation for it," said Gaylor.

Highlights of the internship included when Gaylor and Krech, along with all of the interns from across the US, traveled to Chicago for a conference.

They were able to network with the CEO and other prominent individuals in the company.

Gaylor added that the internship proved to him that people are beginning to see the quality of Laurier and recognize that it can compete with the best schools in North America.

Gaylor concluded that it is definitely not the business program keeping students from opportunities, but instead their own initiative.

"I would tell first-years to find that balance between academic and social life, and they would really be missing out if they didn't," said Gaylor.

"The guy who hired us said we were really well-rounded students and I think that's what made us stand out from the other applicants."

Laurier SBE Students' Society to host "Olympics for business students" in 2011

LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Wilfrid Laurier School of Business and Economics (SBE) Students' Society has won a bid to host Jeux du Commerce (JDC) Central in January 2011.

The event, which is expected to bring in 600 delegates from across Ontario, is what Laurier's SBE Student Society President Evan Thor describes as "Olympics for business students."

"It's going to be crazy," said Thor. "I am really excited. We've never really taken on anything like this."

The games involve teams from various business schools in the province competing in a variety of events.

"It's a great way of uniting the schools and testing our talents and our skills and our capabilities," said Amanda Paquin, vice-president: External for the Commerce and Administration Students' Association at Concordia University.

Paquin, who has competed in the event previously, highlighted the

amazing opportunity that JDC provides business students with, as they are given the chance to work on live cases that companies sponsor.

"You really get to test what you learn in class and put it to the test on real company problems," said Paquin.

The involvement of local businesses in the event is part of the reason that Thor thinks Waterloo will be a great location for the 2011 games.

With Ryerson hosting JDC Central's inaugural competition – previously the competition has only taken place in Quebec and Western Canada – Thor is excited that Laurier will be hosting the event in the university's centennial year.

"We've been working really hard these past few years to get the reputation that Laurier has out there with other student societies," said Thor.

"We're constantly showing that Laurier has some serious stuff to offer and we're prepared for something like this."

About JDC

- Founded 1989 in Quebec
- Goal is to facilitate inter-school networking and competition
- 1200 francophone business students from Eastern Canada compete in the competition annually

How the competition works

Teams of 45 compete in various events and are graded on a point system

Components include:

- Case studies (sponsored by businesses)
- Sports (traditional and non-traditional)
- Charity fundraiser
- Participation

2009

Laurier sent representatives to Edmonton to participate in JDC West; they were named 2009 Ontario school of the year

Technology at Laurier under review

LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A contentious topic and point of frustration for many – technology at Laurier – is currently being assessed as the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) review is finishing up the first phase of the multi-year strategic planning project.

A steering committee has been tasked to oversee the review of computing services at Laurier; they are currently reviewing the preliminary ICT review report, which was completed by CGI, a Canadian firm specializing in IT strategy.

"The intention of the first phrase was really to inventory where we're investing," said Tom Buckley, assistant vice-president of academic services and project sponsor.

"It's really a chance to stop and take a look at what we're doing and identify where there are some challenges or vulnerabilities and decide what are we going to do about them."

Though the findings will not be released until mid-September, Buckley noted that there are several re-occurring themes, specifically regarding the "reliability and availability of key systems."

Buckley said that WebCT, Laurier's online learning system, which crashed on two separate occasions last year leaving students without access to course materials for over a week, was one of the issues brought to the forefront.

"There was a fair amount of frustration conveyed about some problems during the last academic year, with some pretty high-profile unfortunate outages," he said.

Buckley noted that this summer a major overhaul of WebCT has been completed, including replacing hardware and database servers, to ensure functionality for this academic year.

Adam Lazzarato, a second-year political science student, expressed his frustrations with last year's "WebCT fiasco", as well as other technologies, such as the e-mail platform, campus wireless and Laurier Online Registration and Information System (LORIS).

"I haven't talked to one person who hasn't had at least one major complaint from these systems," said Lazzarato.

"To be honest, it's a little embarrassing. The methods that we have for signing up for courses and even getting course materials ... is really fragmented," he added.

Third-year business student Gray McCarthy echoed Lazzarato's concerns, adding that as a university in a technology hotbed we should be more forward thinking with how we approach IT.

"Not only are we far behind ... we're not innovating," said McCarthy.

"We should be learning and thinking of ways to bring [technology] into the classroom as opposed to just bridging a gap or just being as good as somebody else."

A recent report released by SRI International for the Department of Education in the United States, found that "on average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction," a finding that highlights the importance of integrating technology in the classroom.

Peter Tiidus, acting dean of science, professor of kinesiology and ICT committee member noted that embracing technology in the academic environment is very important for the future of the university and education in general.

"We can have the students do more things online and learn a lot without necessarily having to go to the classroom," said Tiidus.

"I don't know how quickly things are going to be implemented, but how we deliver lectures and how we interact with students online is certainly important in how courses will develop in the future."



“My goal is to provide a service-centric ICT platform that can support the learning environment, teaching and research and also the administrative function.”

– Tom Buckley, AVP: Academic services and ICT review project sponsor

Project Goal

To develop a multi-year strategic plan for Laurier's ICT.

Scope

Strategically assess and review:

- Governance models
- Infrastructure
- Technical platforms
- Standards and business processes that support Laurier's ICT needs

Methodology

Throughout June and July, over 100 people were interviewed, including senior administration, representatives of various student organizations, administration and faculty.

ICT Committee

Comprised of 11 individuals from various departments at Laurier.

The group meets regularly, receives updates from consultants and makes recommendations.

"The committee is specifically looking to identify deficiencies and things that [the university] can be doing better in how we supply computing services to faculty, staff and the researchers," Peter Tiidus, ICT committee member.

Project Timeline

April – July 2009

Phase 1: ICT Strategic Assessment Assessment and inventory of ICT resources, standards and practices. Benchmark ICT investment and effectiveness against similar organizations and best practices.

July – Fall 2009

Phase 2: Outline ICT vision, strategy and governance and operating models.

Long-term

Phase 3: Develop and execution of a multi-year implementation plan.

Feedback:

Students can submit feedback to ictreview@wlu.ca

Student Publications summer updates

Radio Laurier to reside in current WLUSP office

Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications (WLUSP) has been granted space by the university to accommodate Radio Laurier, which WLUSP officially took over on May 1.

The current WLUSP president and finance manager office will be converted into a radio booth. This space is slightly larger than the previous Radio Laurier space in the concourse, which is now being used by the bookstore.

All WLUSP administration will be moving their offices across the hall of the basement of MacDonald House residence to a space previously occupied by ResNet.

- Compiled by Lauren Millet

Cordweekly.com hacked

On Aug. 1 The Cord's website was hacked by an individual under the online identity of "Sora."

Though the site was fixed the following day, it was hacked and deleted three more times. The site would be left out of commission for the entire month of August.

On Aug. 14, Sora left a message asking for \$100 to stop hacking the website.

The matter has been forwarded to Waterloo Regional Police Service.

- Compiled by Lauren Millet

WLUSP passes \$25,000 deficit budget

At the Aug. 6 operating budget meeting WLUSP's board of directors passed a \$25,000 deficit budget for the 2009-10 year.

\$87,000 in capital expenditures were also passed, which includes additional computers for the office, camera equipment and distribution racks.

The biggest factor in this deficit is WLUSP's undertaking of Radio Laurier, which the students' union announced they were cutting this past December.

The station accounts for \$20,000 in expenses and has little predicted revenues.

Capital expenditures for the station's recording equipment total \$25,000.

Many cuts were made to all WLUSP departments, including the Investigative Journalism Grant, which is given annually to Laurier students who have the opportunity to report for The Cord from abroad.

Travel and accommodations to cover sports games and attend conferences were significantly reduced, and for the first time individual departments have been asked to fundraise to generate additional revenue.

- Compiled by Lauren Millet

thecord.ca



COURTESY OF MAX BLOUW

From Left: Billy Best, Rick Holmes, Dan Lousier, Catherine Foster and Max Blouw in front of the Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre, which was renamed on Aug. 17.

Max Blouw honoured

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

The University of Northern-British Columbia (UNBC) has honoured president of Wilfrid Laurier University Max Blouw by naming a research centre after him. Blouw previously saved the centre from the federal government who wanted to destroy it.

"I was overwhelmed and absolutely did not expect to be honoured that way," said Blouw, who served as vice-president of research at UNBC.

"The recognition I received should have been shared by quite a number of people, but the fact that they chose me was very special."

The Dr. Max Blouw Quesnel River Research Centre at Likely was unveiled Aug. 17.

Blouw played a large role in rescuing the centre, then called the Quesnel River Research Centre, from near destruction and re-building it into a top-notch research facility.

"It started as a federal research lab, but the federal government determined that it wasn't meeting their needs and they were going to bulldoze it," said Blouw.

"The nearby community was outraged."

The community of Likely approached UNBC, where Blouw served as the vice-president of research, asking the school to take over the centre

and run it as a university research facility.

The site, which sits on 20 hectares of land, contains three buildings: concrete raceways to simulate stream beds, a classroom and laboratory building and a residence.

"The reason it is so ideal for research is because it is situated in the middle of a gradient of elevation between the Rocky Mountains and the Fraser River valley," said Blouw.

The research station is being used to study landscape ecology, and the centre has a number of chairs, including one focused in climate change.

"I raised the money to keep this facility open, and it has become quite a success story," said Blouw.



Back to School

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tuition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Textbooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laptop |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Supplies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Mattress |

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NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Graduate advisor Miriam Fine in front of the Global Engagement Residence located on Albert Street.

New residences offer unique alternatives

Laurier's learning communities provide students with the opportunity to network and engage in specialized interests

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

This September, Wilfrid Laurier University will open its fourth residence life learning community: the Global Engagement Community (GEC) at 102 Albert St.

"The goal is to create an environment for students to engage in some cross-cultural dialogue and current issue education and exploration," said Dave Shorey, GEC Residence Life Area Coordinator (RLAC).

The GEC is the only residence Laurier offers to senior and graduate students, and will be led by graduate advisor Miriam Fine.

"I am there in an advisory capacity to facilitate the GEC," said Fine.

"I'm there to ensure everyone is comfortable in the space, and everyone is getting to know one another. I'm also working on the social and personal development aspects [of the house]," said Fine.

The other three learning communities at Laurier are only for first-year students and include the active living community (located in Bricker

residence), the leadership community (Regina St. residence) and the business and economics community (Waterloo College Hall).

"What we would really like to do with these learning communities is equip students to take what they're learning in their communities and share it with the rest of the residence community and the Laurier community at large," said Shorey.

Students with an interest in one of the four communities can interact and engage with other students who have similar interests and goals.

"The learning communities offer a rich, out of classroom experience," said Fine.

"The GEC [specifically] is a really exciting one because of the interdisciplinary nature of it; the fact that we have students from all different majors coming together with the common goal of improving their role in the world as global citizens."

The theme of the community will be "Education, Action, Reflection", which will allow students the chance to physically make a difference in the community.

Fine added that another function of the house is to provide programming for the campus, which potentially includes working with another body on campus to run one major event each semester.

These events could be anything from speakers to awareness campaigns.

This year, the GEC will house mainly Canadian students; however, Shorey noted that the future goal is to have more international students living alongside Canadian students.

The house was donated by Laurier professor Ron Harris in memory of his wife, Joan, who passed away in 2007.

"We had just started renovating the house when my wife passed away, so I decided to donate it," said Harris, following the official donation of the house on July 8.

For over 35 years, Harris and his wife provided affordable housing for international students attending Laurier. "It just made sense to donate it," he said.

"In creating this global community, we want to show there is no discrimination between race, religion or education."

Students' union adds new staff positions

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

Administrative manager

A new administrative manager position has been created in the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union to work with the current administrative assistant, who oversees the activities of the front desk of the WLUSU offices in the Fred Nichols Campus Centre.

The goal of creating the new position is to make improvements in customer service, for both students and students' union employees.

"Instead of doing [customer service] as an afterthought, by putting a department head in administration, I'm hoping that they start to see customers differently and it takes on a life of its own," said WLUSU general manager Mike McMahon.

Charlene LaCelle, former health and dental plan co-ordinator, has been hired to this position. It will focus on areas that have been overlooked in the past, such as challenges at the front desk, with the phone services and in the payroll department.

According to McMahon, tasks such as answering phones and taking customer concerns at the front desk were often forgotten.

With LaCelle vacating her previous position, Natascha Witt has now been hired as the health and dental plan assistant.

Kelly Lee, a Laurier employee who most recently worked in athletics and recreation, has been hired to fill the position of administration assistant.

She is the permanent replacement for Tina MacKinnon – who left WLUSU Sept. 26, 2008 – and will focus on the business side of the organization and customer service.

There is also a plan to hire a student employee, which will allow the office to stay open until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Food and Beverage

After the resignations of both the manager and assistant manager of food and beverage for WLUSU in late August, the positions have now been filled by WLUSU employee Rob Sexton. Sexton has been managing the Terrace Food Court for the last nine months.

Sexton will serve as interim manager of Wilf's, the Turret and the Terrace for the upcoming year, while the union conducts internal research on how to better manage the three businesses.

"Until we run a research project internally with our people, take a look at how we're structured and decide how we're going to manage in the future, Rob Sexton's management assignment right now has increased," said McMahon.

The three businesses will be run under one management head for the upcoming year. During this time, the students union will conduct internal research to decide how to run food and beverage in the future.

"The internal research will likely confirm that that is the best business model: a consistent department head for all this, because there are so many synergies that can be exploited that way," said McMahon.

Sexton previously held the positions of food court operations manager in Waterloo and food services manager in Brantford.

According to McMahon there is expected to be a new structure of operations set by April 2010 that will address the needs of the department and likely open up two new job positions.

A hiring process will follow to fill the vacant spaces and reconfigure the department to work more effectively.

Former food and beverage manager Tara Robinson and assistant food and beverage manager Brian Dymarski have left the union for an external positions.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

WLUSU installs carpet in the Terrace

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

The Wilfrid Laurier University Student's Union has replaced the upper level floor in the Terrace Food Court, which cost the union \$15,000.

According to WLUSU general manager, Mike McMahon, the previous floor, which was installed in 2000, had worn right down to the concrete in certain areas in front of Mr. Sub and the Pita Shack.

The new floor is a food grade carpet tile, which is square tiles of carpet laid out across the floor.

"We are trying to achieve more of a lounge feel for students," said McMahon.

"We are trying to do a better job of creating a homelike environment in that space, reducing ambient noise and improving our ability to properly

clean that space and have it looking almost new daily."

McMahon noted that the nice thing about the carpet tile is that each square can be easily replaced in case of a bad spill.

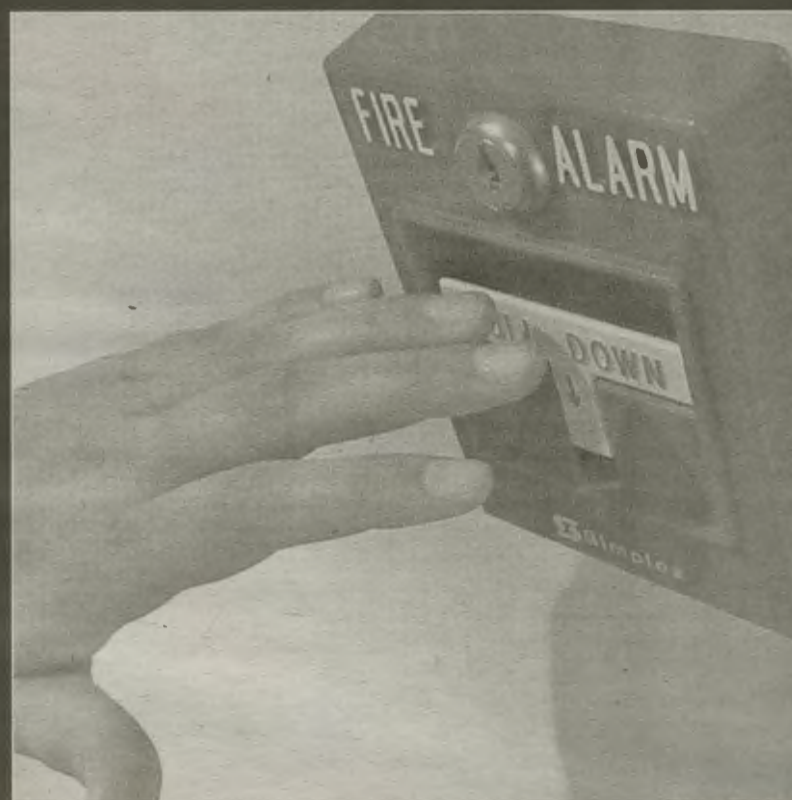
"With the food grade carpet tiles, you can run an automatic floor machine over them to wash them," added McMahon.

"We're not going to do it every day, but we have the opportunity to do way better maintenance on it than the floor we had before which needed wax, stripper and other products that are hard on the environment."

The carpet tile is constructed of sustainable fibres, and cleaning and maintenance is environmentally friendly.

Funding for the floor can from the repair and maintenance section of WLUSU's budget, which was passed by the board of directors on June 13.

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A fire alarm should only be activated when there is a real fire.
Pulling it for fun is a dangerous prank with serious consequences.
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It also diverts costly services away from real emergencies.

Laurier's Special Constable Service will lay criminal charges against anyone who wilfully activates a fire alarm without reasonable cause. As a criminal charge, it's punishable by up to two years in jail. Those found guilty also receive a criminal record that could hinder their future employment options. That's no joke.

For more information about campus safety and security at Laurier, visit the Special Constable Service website at:

www.wlu.ca/specialconstableservice

LAURIER
Special Constable Service





ALEX HAYTER FILE PHOTO

Laurier's former VP: Academic takes post at UW

Sue Horton is hired by the University of Waterloo as associate-provost, graduate studies and Balsillie School research chair

LAURA CARLSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Following a year of sabbatical from Wilfrid Laurier University, Sue Horton has accepted the position of associate-provost graduate studies at the University of Waterloo.

Horton, who served as vice-president academic and provost at Laurier from 2004-08, was planning to return to Laurier as an economics professor this September; however, she has since resigned from this position.

"UW just made me a very attractive offer," said Horton.

In February, UW offered Horton a research chair in global health economics at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, with a cross appointment to Waterloo's department of health studies and gerontology.

"I've worked quite a bit with people at UW in the course of the work I did at Laurier on the Balsillie School," said Horton.

"I was offered a research chair and these things are hard to turn down."

Following this, she was encouraged to apply for the new associate-provost position.

In this position, Horton will be focusing on UW's three major targets for the graduate studies department:

to double the number of graduate students by 2017 (from 4000 to 8000), extend guaranteed funding to masters students in research programs and increase the number of international students.

In her chair position at the Balsillie School, Horton will conduct research and work with graduate students, something she didn't have much opportunity to do at Laurier.

"Unfortunately in my area there aren't a lot of grad students at Laurier," said Horton, who focuses her work on international health.

Last summer Horton received international recognition for a paper she produced entitled "Hunger and Malnutrition," which was chosen by the Copenhagen Consensus as the highest priority solution to welfare issues.

During her academic leave from Laurier, Horton traveled around the world presenting this research.

She made 17 presentations in three different continents, including stops in China, Bucharest, Guatemala, Europe and the U.S.

Since she returned in February, she has been busy writing, including four technical papers, two book chapters, a book manuscript and six articles in various stages of production.

"It's been kind of busy," she noted.

Education

BA Economics (1977, Cambridge University)

MA Economics (1981, Harvard University)

PhD Economics (1982, Harvard University)

Employment

University of Toronto
Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science (1996-97)
Chair of the Department of Social Science (2000-03)
Interim Dean (2003-04)

Laurier
Vice-President Academic (2004-08)
*Academic leave from Laurier 2008-09

University of Waterloo
Associate-Provost Graduate Studies (Started July 1, 2009)
CIGI Chair in Global Health Economics (Started July 1, 2009)

While you were out...

Summer's headline-making news

\$8.9 million budget cuts

Laurier's office of the vice-president academic has been given one year to implement five per cent budget cuts to the various departments. The budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year included a one-year deferral of pension payments, which saved the university \$8.7 million this year. That money was put back into the academic department in order to buy time to decide where best to implement future cuts.

These cuts come after Ontario's provincial government gave Laurier money to aid the debt of the 2008-09 fiscal year. The government allocated these funds in previous years; however, this year the university had been told not to expect them in the future.
- Reported by Lauren Millet

"Drunk while sleeping"

Wilfrid Laurier University student John Soong is fighting an impaired driving charge, claiming he got drunk while he was sleeping. Soong testified in early June that he must have consumed alcohol while wandering around his Laurier residence in a daze.

Soong's lawyer produced a sleep expert at the hearing who confirmed that the accused had sleep apnea and could have consumed alcohol without knowing it. Soong claims that he took several medications for a cold and went to bed shortly before 11 p.m. on the night in question.

- Reported by Lauren Millet

Staff member dies

Pauline Wong, a staff member at Wilfrid Laurier University for more than two decades, died on Monday, Aug. 3 after battling lung cancer. Wong held the position of associate registrar: Awards, since 2001.

She was a longtime member of the Ontario Universities Registrar's Association and an active member of the Ontario Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

- Reported by Lauren Millet

Student representative replaced

Jon Champagne has stepped down from his student governor position for the 2009-10 academic year.

Champagne was elected in February 2008 for a two-year term, but having graduated from Laurier this spring he is leaving Waterloo to pursue other endeavors.

Kory Jeffery, who unsuccessfully ran for the student position this past election, will serve out the remainder of Champagne's term.

- Reported by Andrea Millet

WLUSU's embarks on market research project

A \$25,000 amendment for a market research project was passed during the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union board of directors operating budget meeting, leaving the union's budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year with a \$25,000 deficit. The intention is for WLUSU to hire an external firm to conduct market research that will determine what students really want from their students' union.

WLUSU also approved several capital expenditures at this meeting, including Wilf's kitchen renewal (\$250,000), Fred Nichols Campus Centre (FNCC) furniture renewal (\$23,000), computer hardware upgrade (\$21,600) and Centre Spot retail checkout (\$11,500).

It was announced that the union will be opening a William's Coffee Pub in the Terrace and closing Yogen Früz/Country Style and the cereal bar.

- Reported by Laura Carlson

New residence buildings

To accommodate the increased number of first year students, two new buildings will be used as first-year residences this upcoming year.

One, located at 325 Spruce St., holds 82 students; the other, at 340 Spruce St., holds 385 students.

These buildings will function the same as other residence buildings, with one residence life don per floor.

Laurier has only signed a 20 1/2 month lease for these buildings, as they are regarded only as a temporary solution.

- Reported by Lauren Millet

Laurier workers settle

Both the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) have settled new contracts.

CUPE, with 107 members at Laurier, settled at the end of August. UFCW, with 45 full-time and 54 part-time members at Laurier, settled in July.

The financial increase for both groups was 1.5 per cent, which is the same increase that management (with the exception of some senior administration positions) received.

- Reported by Lauren Millet



Welcome Back Students!

\$2 Taco week

September 6th-10th
Starting daily at 4:00pm



Weekly Specials

Monday's Burger Special

Enjoy our famous homemade 6oz Hamburger
with fixings for only \$3.99 All Day.

Toonie Taco Tuesday

4 Beef Tacos \$2.00 4pm on.

Wednesday Wing Nite

Enjoy 10 baked wings for \$5.99 4pm on.

Taxes extra.

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Rebuilding Laurier

A look at this summer's reconstruction of the quad by Photography Manager **Nick Lachance**

The \$1.5 million renovations to the Laurier campus are scheduled to be complete Sept. 7.

The quad area, including the new amphitheatre and Grad Pub patio, are expected to be finished development before the arrival of students, although landscaping details may still be under way.

The motivation behind the renovations included improving accessibility and making the quad a more person-focused environment by building an amphitheatre, eliminating the stairs between the Dr. Alvin Woods Building (DAWB) and Schlegel Centre and creating a vehicle turn around and drop-off beside the library.

Grad Pub

On Sept. 9 the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) will be opening a patio as part of the Grad Pub.

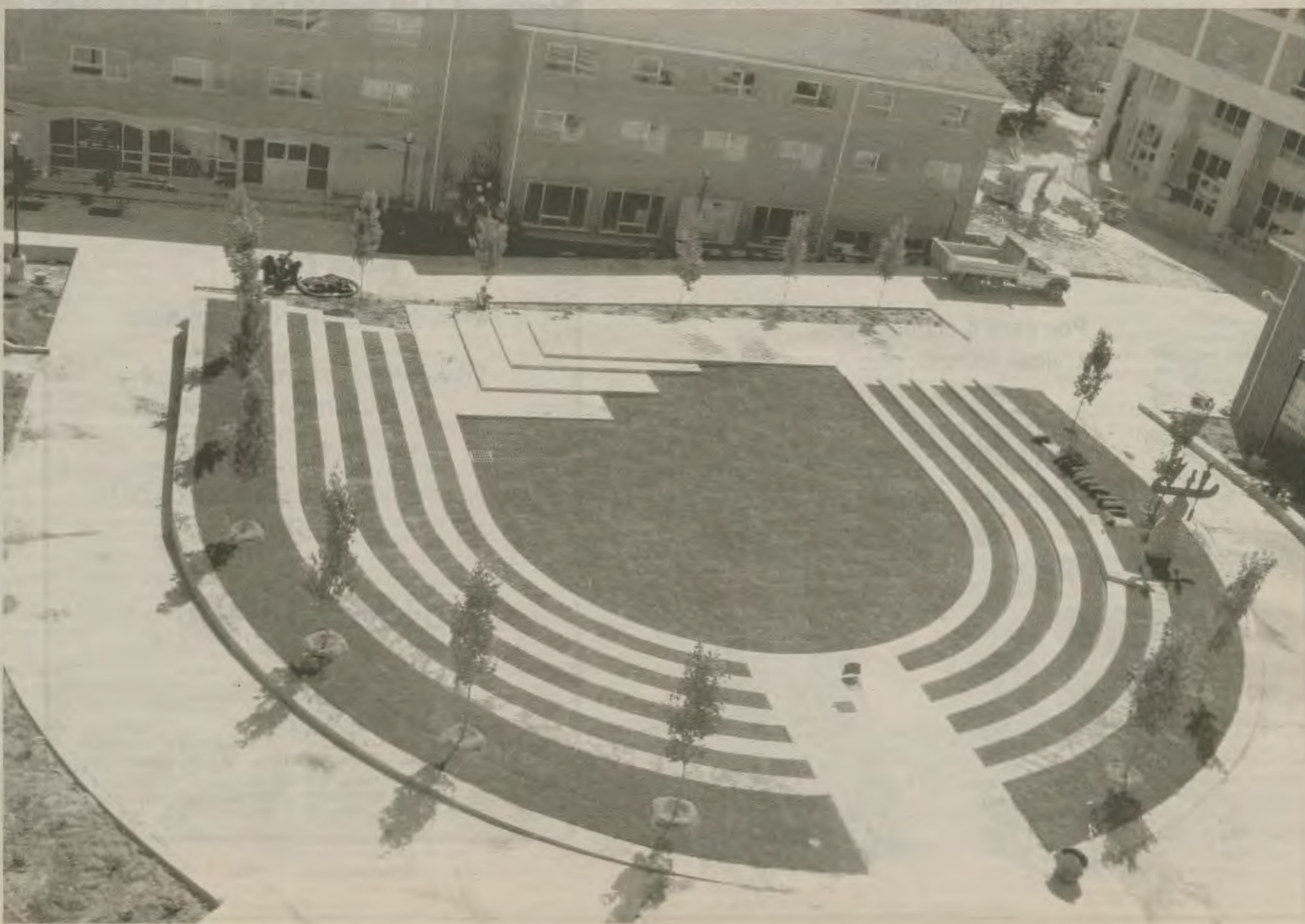
According to Ellen Menage, office and services administrator for the GSA, the patio is intended not only as a place for grad students and faculty to gather but also as a way to make prominent the presence of grad students as a part of the Laurier Community.

The patio will be a liquor licensed area.

Pool update

The Laurier pool, which has been closed since June 8, has had to push its re-opening date back from September to Oct. 23.

- Andrea Millet



RECYCLING FOR OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

Welcome back!



Garbage and recycling is handled locally by the Region of Waterloo.

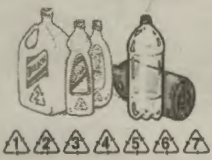
For your convenience, here is a tear-out guide to what can go into the blue box. We provide free blue boxes as well as free backyard composters. Please check our website or call us if you have any questions about garbage, recycling or composting.

Waste Management Division
519-883-5100

Put these in the Blue Box:

Plastic containers

- empty, rinse; place loose in blue box



Newspapers, magazines, books, paper

- bag or tie together



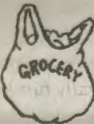
Boxboard e.g. cereal, tissue, detergent, egg cartons (cardboard)

- remove liners; flatten and bag or stuff in one boxboard box



Plastic grocery & shopping bags

- stuff inside one bag, tie shut



Milk & juice cartons, juice boxes

- remove caps; place loose in blue box
- remove & discard straws
- empty, flatten; place loose in blue box



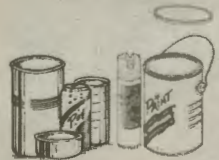
Glass food & beverage bottles and jars

- empty, rinse; place loose in blue box



Food, beverage & other metal cans

- empty, rinse; place loose in blue box
- empty, dry paint cans only with lids off
- empty aerosol cans



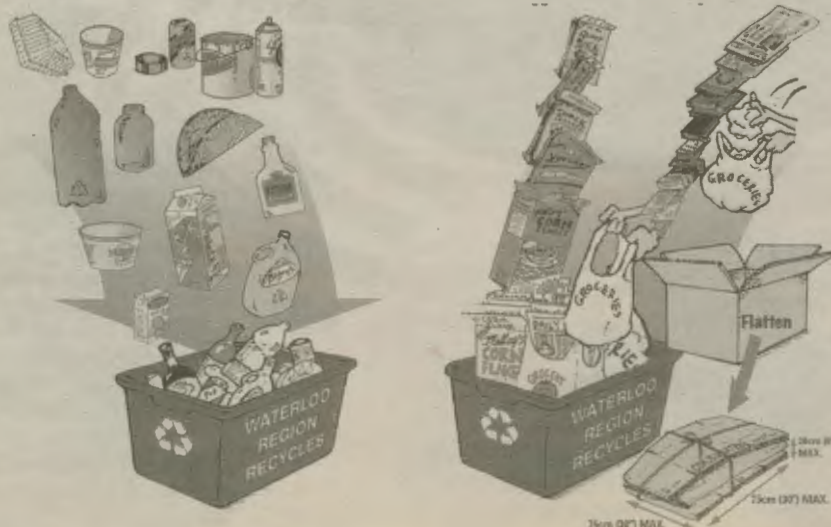
Pop cans & aluminum foil

- rinse, crumple; place loose in blue box



Cardboard boxes

- flatten, tie pieces together
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LOCAL

Local Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca



See more from the busker festival's "Naughty No-No Show" on thecord.ca

Waterloo after dark

Performers displayed their unique talents and more at the adults-only portion of this year's Busker Festival

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Wearing little more than nipple tassels, crotchless-pantyhose and bunny ears, buskers performed their gravity-defying stunts while baring it all for the local crowd. This was naturally after a friendly warning to get children "the fuck out of here."

Magic tricks and PG-rated humour were thrown out Saturday night to make way for the adult-only "Naughty No No Show" presented by the Stag Shop.

The show featured the Aerial Angels, a vivacious three-woman acrobatic ensemble, along with the hula-hooping duo FlameOz, circus arts of the male duo the Phantastyk and one member of the Pogo Dudes.

Allison Williams, or "Isabella", the lead performer of the Aerial Angels, described the show as "a big celebratory, play-time, sexy, fun show."

"We get naughty, we shed items of clothing, and we get members of the audience to shed items of clothing," Williams explained about the performance hosted Uptown as part of the carnival held Aug. 27-30.

With a background in performance arts, Williams helped found the Aerial Angels in 2003.

Performing at festivals around North America, their act turned from a part-time job to a full-time career.

"Aerial Angels started because myself and two of my friends were really interested in circus and aerials arts," said Williams, explaining that the trio

started playing in a backyard with equipment hanging from a tree.

"Now for the three of us it's the only thing we do year-round," said Williams.

Williams expressed her support for anyone pursuing a career in performance or the arts, using herself as proof of the possibilities. Williams earned a bachelor degree in fine arts and worked as a professional actor before co-founding the Aerial Angels.

"When people think 'Oh, I'm going to get a degree in theatre and going to be a movie star', that's not necessarily a realistic goal, but 'I'm going to be a full-time professional performer doing what I love' is a very realistic goal," she said.

In working for the Angels, Williams said that she has been given the opportunity to combine her dreams of performing with a stable career.

"I'm never going to be famous and I'm probably never going to be fabulously wealthy, although I'm very comfortably off, but I love what I do," she said.

When the sun came up, the carnival returned to its more family-friendly nature with the Aerial Angels performing a less scandalous act of their impressive acrobatics, magic tricks and music, along with 14 other busker troops who traveled from as far as Sweden and Australia to partake in the weekend event.

Jacob Kettner, or "Majake", performed a magical escape show with help from the audience and his stuffed monkey Terry.

Kettner explained his initial interest in magical performance rooting

"I'm going to be a full-time professional performer, doing what I love' is a very realistic goal."

— Allison Williams of the Aerial Angels

from his childhood. "I got into magic from having no friends in elementary school and thought it would make me cool," he said.

The thrill of live performance has kept him in the business.

"That 45 minutes is the most amazing thing ever," he said.

Avik Banerjee, attending the carnival for the first time, enjoyed the experience especially with his three-year-old son Nayan.

"The kids are having a great time," he said.

Scott Loxton, age 10, was excited to see all the performances.

"He's crazy," said Loxton pointing out a juggler.

The weekend-long carnival that entertains adults and children alike is run annually by a group of dedicated volunteers, the city and local corporate sponsors.

Convict allowed to study in Waterloo Region

LAUREN MILLET
NEWS EDITOR

Brock Golden, a convicted child pornographer, has been granted permission from the Manitoba Court of Appeals to continue his education in the Kitchener-Waterloo area while released on bail.

Availability of information

According to a source at the Manitoba Courts of Appeal, who cannot give his identity because of a publication ban on the case, Golden was released on \$20,000 cash bail to allow him to attend college or university in the region, provided he maintains the conditions of his bail.

Both the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier have publicly confirmed that they do not have a student by the name of Brock Golden registered to attend school. Conestoga College would not release whether they did or not.

"Because someone has a criminal record, that doesn't prohibit them from applying to a publicly funded university," commented Kevin Crowley, director of news and editorial services at Laurier.

School safety a priority

Crowley added that safety of students is first and foremost.

"Anyone, whether they have a criminal record or not, who poses a threat to the Laurier community we would take very seriously and we would take whatever measures we would need to keep [the community] safe," said Crowley.

Ken Lavigne, associate registrar at the University of Waterloo, noted that when someone applies to university, the information requested of them is related mostly to their academic qualifications.

"In all cases where someone has applied who does have a criminal record, or a pattern of behaviour that might be a concern, we wouldn't routinely know that," said Lavigne.

He added that if such information comes to their attention, the university undertakes due diligence to determine whether that person would pose a danger to the university community.

"We would determine whether they were a risk and decide whether we wanted that person at Waterloo," said Lavigne.

Students still discomforted

Second-year radio broadcasting student at Conestoga College and Laurier alumnus, Care Lucas, voiced concern about attending classes with someone convicted of such crimes.

"I'd be pretty scared," she admitted. "I wouldn't feel comfortable as a student knowing he was here."

She added that she hoped if such a person was attending the school, students would be made aware of the situation, as it would not be fair to the rest of the student body.

Golden was given a 30-month sentence after being convicted of internet luring and making child pornography.

Over 200 pornographic pictures were recovered from Golden's laptop. He asked the Manitoba Court of Appeal to reduce his sentence.

Getting pumped for Africa

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

On Aug. 25, the Grand River chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) held a fundraising event to support their "Agriculture as a Business" program in Ghana. Held in the public square, the one-day pump-a-thon raised \$5326 towards their goal of \$6000.

A treadle pump replicating those used in Ghana to irrigate agricultural fields was set up in the square to exhibit the technology made available to Ghanaian farmers to improve their production.

"We want to treadle pump in order to support this program and to support what the farmers are doing," said Alyssa Lindsay, the Grand River chapter leader.

Traditional African food, provided by East African Café, was also available by donation at the event.

The focus of the event, "Agriculture as a Business", is a partnership program between EWB and Ghana's Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

"[The program aims] to help farmers see agriculture as more than a cultural practice but as business, as something that can actually produce income and pull them out of poverty," explained Lindsay.

"It also gives them skills like business planning, marketing, business development, so they can take their small-scale farms from feeding their own families to actually being successful businesses," said Lindsay.

"By doing that they can pay for health care, pay for education and do a lot more." The funds raised from this event will directly support the chapter's junior fellow, Elizabeth Logan, who is currently working in Ghana.

Lindsay explained, "[Logan] is specifically looking at challenges that farmers are facing and looking at challenges that the program is facing, acting as a management consultant."

"It's not that we have the answers," she said. "We have a different point of view and together we're a collaborative effort ... to make the program stronger."

In partnering with the local government and farmers, the improvements made are more self-sustainable for the individual farmers and can be maintained well into the future.

"Instead of actually giving things, we're helping to strengthen the program being run by the Ministry of Agriculture," said Lindsay.

Still shy of their fundraising goal, EWB continued their campaign an additional week in hopes of reaching their target.

What is a treadle pump?

- The force of the treadle motion propelling water from a source throughout their agricultural fields.

- A farmer would have to treadle pump for 2 to 3 hours per day to irrigate a field the size of the public square.

- This technology allows farmers to continue their practices throughout the dry season, promoting yields and financial security.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Two treadle pumps were set up in the public square for community members to experience what the work of Ghanaian farmers is like.

September Preview

Qigong: Martial arts described as a form of "Chinese Yoga", hosted by Cold Mountain Internal Arts
Bellydancing

Thursday Nights Uptown concerts
Eclectic Tuesday Concert Series
sponsored by Maxwell's Music House
SkateZone

While you were out...

Public Square controversies

Opening on May 31, the public square has received a great deal of criticism, from its design to the activities it has hosted.

At July's city council meeting, a motion was passed banning skateboarders from the public square with the exception of 10 hours dispersed throughout the week. The decision was made in response to complaints regarding the disruption and possible dangers the skateboarders posed.

The Bell for Kepler, installed in the square, was vandalized with chalk during the night on Aug. 15.

The Bell was cleaned off by city staff and didn't have any further damage.

- Reported by Linda Givetash

New school in uptown

On May 25, the provincial and federal governments both announced they would invest \$25 million to fund the Balsillie Centre of Excellence, matching Jim Balsillie's contribution.

The centre, to be completed by June 2011, will collaborate with Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, as well as national and international universities to run its graduate programs.

Although construction was planned to begin in June, it has been delayed due to complications in drawing up contracts for the granted government funding. Progress has been made and the groundbreaking is expected to occur within the next two weeks.

- Reported by Linda Givetash

The Silver Spur sold to developer

The Silver Spur, a favourite nighttime destination among university students, closed on May 4 and was sold to developer Jeff Zavitz.

Plans for replacement buildings have not yet started and a new bar called Chainsaw has opened.

- Reported by Linda Givetash

Reviewing the public square

A look at the programs now offered in Uptown Waterloo

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Since its opening in May, the events in the public square have either drawn in large crowds or a scant audience.

The success or failure of the programs continues to aid the development of the type of activities that are, and will be, available in the coming months.

Activities offered in the square have included concerts, dancing and martial arts in addition to special events. According to Tracey Suerich, program coordinator for the City of Waterloo, the summer program was an overall success.

"We had some programs that went through a few different trial periods, trying a few different things," said Suerich.

"Generally we learned a lot."

Ballroom dancing was one of the most popular activities held over the summer.

"We'd regularly have 80 to 100 people watching on the sidelines and by the end of the lessons we'd probably have 20 to 30 couples up dancing," said Suerich.

The costs to the city in running such events have been minimal with the support of local sponsors and volunteers.

Dance lessons, hosted by the Arthur Murray Dance Studio, cost the city \$40 per week and the sponsored event Bikeapoloosa cost \$450.

"The square can be successful because it brings the community forward and gets them involved in the programming," said Suerich.

With the strong community

support, events will continue into the colder months.

"We'll be running a Festival of Lights and Global Holiday Celebration through the month of December. We hope to do a very European style outdoor market during the shopping season," said Suerich.

Although many events are not youth-oriented, sports in the winter may interest a younger crowd.

January events will focus on the upcoming Olympics, featuring winter sports such as skiing and snowshoeing.

A miniature ski jump is also in the works to be created along some of the current bench seating for people to attempt during the ski workshops.

The most up-to-date listing of the events coming up in the square are available on the city's website.

Yoga

Yoga has been one of the less successful events held this summer, yet Shant Dubey, a volunteer yoga instructor, remains optimistic about the program.

"It takes time for anything new to get rooted," said Dubey.

Yoga will be re-evaluated and hopefully launch in some form next spring.

"I still feel in my heart that yoga is a powerful thing that will bring people out, but there were a few stumbling blocks with it," said Suerich.

SkateZone

For a total of 10 hours per week, a section of the public square is open to skateboarders of all ages.

Two rails have been installed on the site for use during those times.

SkateZone was developed to meet the needs of skateboarders after city council decided to prohibit the activity.

Without an alternative venue, specified hours were given to them with adequate space in the square.

"It's such a good place to skate," said frequent skateboarder Chris Howe.

"It should be on everyday," said Tristan Clarke, 13.

Outside of SkateZone hours, skateboarders are left without a proper facility, and some, like Alex Handy, 12, must skate "wherever we can find."

Tai Chi

Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada has hosted Tai Chi in the square all summer, which will be continuing into the fall.

Held on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. and Friday over the lunch hour, it has had an excellent turnout.

"People are joining in I believe every week," said Denise Paquette of the Taoist Tai Chi Society.

"I think it's a wonderful thing ... because its generating interest in community spirit," said Paquette.



Steve Higgins owner of Cold Mountain Internal Arts teaching Qigong in the city's public square.

NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

City council update

Meeting: Aug. 24, 2009

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Council addressed the funding of a skating rink and water feature for the public square.

The total costs for the additional features is estimated to be \$976,000. To fund the skating rink, \$426,000 will be needed for its construction and maintenance.

Council voted against allocating funds to the account for the skating rink project, preferring to see the results of the fundraising committee.

In regards to the method of funding, Councilor Ian McLean said, "We did explicitly say that these two expensive pieces would be funded by the community."

Paul Rossi, a member of the fundraising committee, explained the delays in launching the campaign. "A lot of the answers we need to campaign with are not available," he said.

Rossi did clarify that the issue was "to no fault of city staff."

Council passed the motion to support the community fundraising effort and are expecting the necessary funds raised by Sept. 21.

If the deadline is not met, it is not likely that the skating rink will be open by December of this year.

Council also passed the budget for the extreme sports park, which is intended to be opened in 2010.

"I believe we need to be very proactive in getting this constructed as a council," said Councilor Diane Freeman regarding putting the budget forward.

\$70,000 had already been allocated to the project. However, development services asked for the full budget for the project in order to most effectively begin planning the site and design.

The park will accommodate BMX bikes as well as skateboards.

Different designs are being looked at for the park, and will feature either an integrated or two neighbouring facilities to support each activity.

The location of the facility is still to be determined. City staff have been examining various possibilities.

Freeman said, "The amount of comments we have received for the need of one of these parks over the last two years has been excessive."

The commitment for the development of this type of facility was first made in the city's master plan.

KW in brief

Brick sues founder

On June 2, 2009, Brick Brewing Co. launched a million-dollar lawsuit against its former owner Jim Brickman. The founder and former chairman has been accused of exploiting the company on several fronts including leaking confidential company information and wrongfully adding his wife to the company's payroll.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Trademark dispute

Anheuser-Busch and its Canadian division Labatt Brewing Co. Ltd. have filed a lawsuit against the Brick Brewing Co. alleging that its new Red Baron Lime infringes the trademarks of Bud Light Lime. Labatt is demanding that Brick pay for damages and discontinue selling their lime beer.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Waterloo UAE opens

The University of Waterloo has officially opened an international campus in Dubai, after having worked with the United Arab Emirates' Higher Colleges of Technology and Centre of

Excellence for Applied Research and Training. Classes for the campus' total of 22 engineering students began on Sept. 1.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Increased by-law

The by-law enforcement division in Waterloo has increased enforcement efforts in anticipation of the returning students. These efforts are almost simultaneous with the upcoming launch of the city's "It's your Waterloo" campaign, which is aimed at promoting by-law awareness among students in the community.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Funding St. Jacobs

The federal government announced on Sept. 1 that it would invest \$483,390 towards St. Jacobs under the Community Adjustment Fund.

The funds will be used to restore and upgrade Waterloo Central Railway's shop facilities.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Conestoga College stimulus announced

On Aug. 27, the federal government announced, along with its new Community Adjustment Fund of \$102 million, that \$3.3 million would be allocated to Conestoga College to construct a skilled trades training centre in Ingersoll.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

Chalk artist who defaced the Bell for Kepler revealed

Marcus Green, Wilfrid Laurier University alumnus and local poet, came forward as the artist who defaced the Bell for Kepler in the public square.

The Bell was discovered to be covered in chalk drawings with inspiring statements such as "Fire of Imagination."

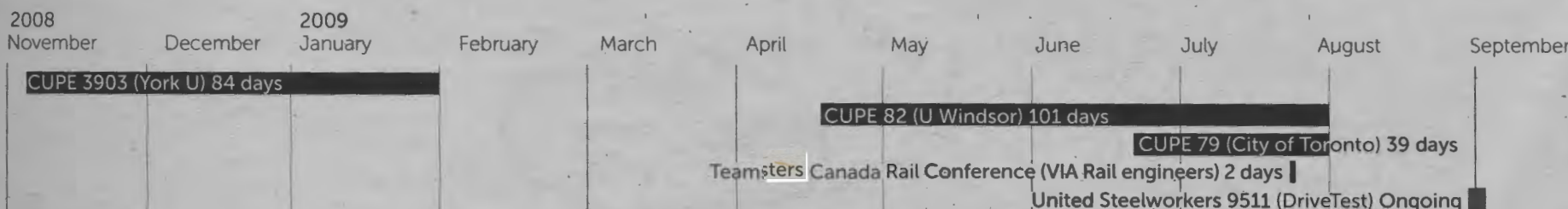
The Bell was not permanently damaged by the incident.

Green stated that he had drawn on the Bell to bring colour to the new public square and show off its potential.

- Compiled by Linda Givetash

NATIONAL

National Editor Linda Givetash • lgivetash@thecord.ca



Unions strike during recession

LINDA GIVETASH
LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDITOR

Over the past year, Ontario has seen many labour disputes resulting in strikes afflicting municipalities and corporations.

With the recession taking a toll on employers and employees alike, reaching an agreement on finances can be increasingly difficult.

The Cord takes a look at the recent strikes at the city of Windsor, the city of Toronto and York University to help understand the implications of labour disputes on those both directly and indirectly involved.

Windsor:
CUPE Local 82 and CUPE 543

In Windsor, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 82, representing garbage, roadwork and gardening workers went on strike on April 15.

CUPE 543, representing the city's social services, daycare, bylaw and clerical workers, went on strike a few days later. The strike lasted a total of 101 days.

CUPE 82 asked for a wage increase and refused the city's proposed

two-tier benefit scheme for new employees. CUPE 543's demands focused on post-retirement benefits.

The city claimed that they were unable to meet the unions' demands with the decrease in revenue caused by the current economic recession.

"Either you lay off people or you increase taxes and increasing taxes wasn't an option," explained Fulvio Valentinis, a Windsor city councillor.

"To protect everybody's job we had to take a tough stand on cutting our costs."

Although the strike is now over, a sense of bitterness and animosity still exists between the parties.

"It's going to take a long time to heal those wounds," said Valentinis.

The long-term implications of the strike are only starting to take effect.

"What the strike has done is it's really got the public involved in municipal services and in questioning what services we're providing, how we're providing [them] and the costs of those services," Valentinis added.

The city of Windsor is currently waiting on a report that analyses their public services and implications of turning certain services – including garbage removal – over to private contractors.

"There is a substantial public outcry that maybe we should be looking at," said Valentinis.

Valentinis noted the financial implications of the strike for both the city and union employees.

"If you take three months, that's one quarter of a year's salary. There's no question that there was substantial hardship on some of these people [who went on strike]," said Valentinis.

Toronto:
CUPE Local 79 and CUPE 416

The city of Toronto underwent a similar situation to Windsor this summer when CUPE 416 and Local 79 walked out on June 22. The strike lasted 39 days and caused the cancellation of city-run Canada Day celebrations.

Both municipal strikes illustrate the complications of failed collective bargaining.

"Collective bargaining as a whole is a collective freedom that is valued in our society," said Bruce Skeaff, media relations for the Ministry of Labour. Skeaff noted that lengthy strikes as these are not common practice.

"[Collective bargaining] works the vast majority of times. The number of labour disruptions in this province are very, very small," explained Skeaff

considering the number of contract agreements made annually.

York University:
CUPE 3903

Back-to-work legislation brought an end to the lengthy strike at York.

The 84-day strike of CUPE Local 3903 representing teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants at York University left students locked out of their classrooms from Nov. 6, 2008 – Jan. 29, 2009.

Following this the university suffered a 10 per cent drop in applications for the fall of 2009; however, the enrolment numbers are anticipated to stay consistent with the previous year's.

Current students had to cope with the further complications of resuming the fall semester in January and extending the winter semester to mid June.

The university worked to help students through the motions of an irregular term.

"Everybody throughout the university stepped in to help the students to ensure the quality of their education," said Alex Bilyk, director of media relations at York University.

Though they were not paying faculty during the strike, there were no financial savings for the university.

"We put out additional funds to students to help them out, especially those with financial needs," said Bilyk.

That support, however, was not a unanimous feeling among students.

"We got no money for it and the only option they offered was dropping courses for credits next year," said Emily Bissell-Barahona, a third-year music student at York University.

"Even when we went back they didn't tell us about these options that we had. There was nothing," she added.

Receiving the proper quality of education in condensed semesters was another concern among students.

"For me personally I didn't get my [music] practice time at all and that's part of something I pay for," said Bissell-Barahona.

Although agreements were reached in each instance, the implications of a strike on all parties continue to play out months after the dispute was concluded.

"There are no winners in a strike," said Bilyk.

Student finances fall short

From cover

committee member will be able to provide budget templates and really just work with that student," explained Preston.

A recent poll released by Ipsos Reid on behalf of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) found that 43 per cent of new post-secondary students and 35 per cent of returning students believe that their spending money will only sustain them until the Christmas break.

Half of students expect to run out of money before end of school year

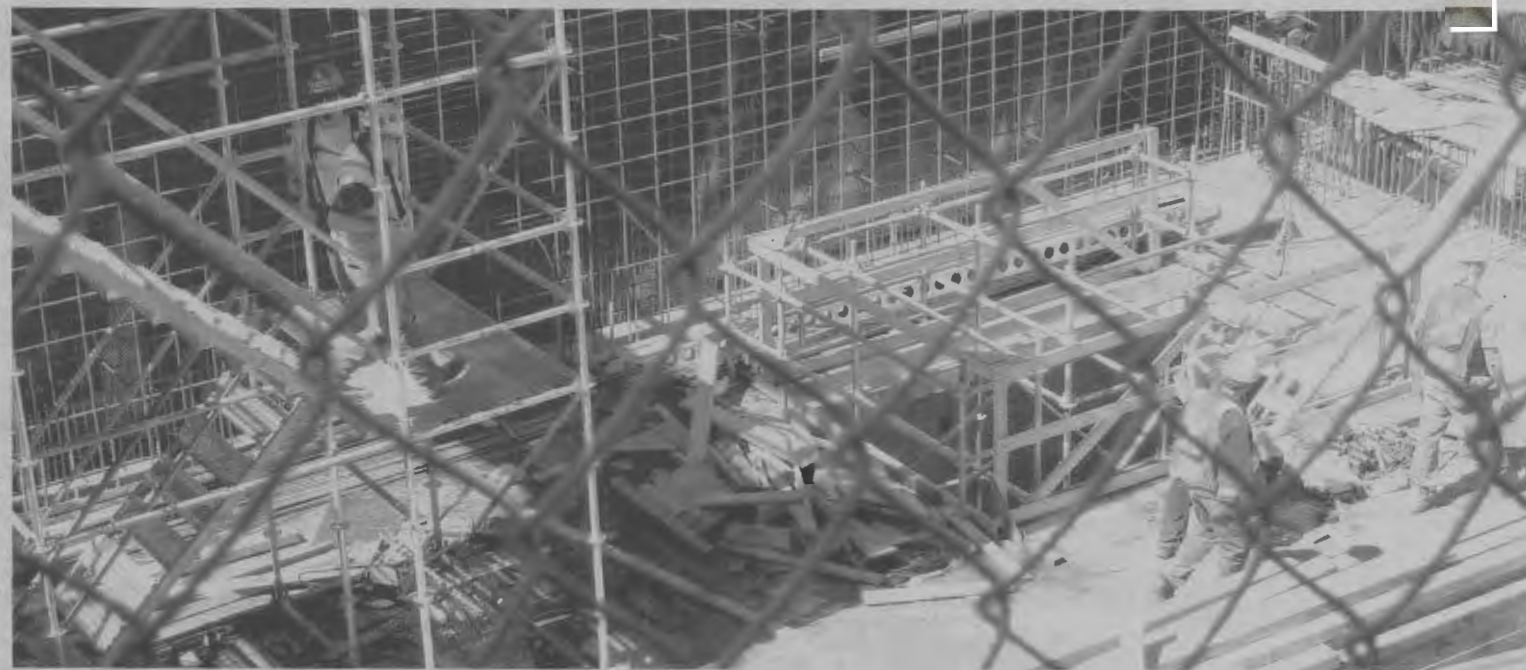
The poll also found that 50 per cent of all students surveyed expect to run out of money before the end of the 2009-10 school year.

Such statistics highlight the urgency for addressing options to aid students with the financial burden of school.

The office of university affairs at WLUSU works hand in hand with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). CASA is a national advocacy group that works with provincial and federal lobby organizations, which Preston explains "make sure our elected officials' agenda is on the current financial situation of students."

Yet despite the efforts that CASA is making to address student debt, those who did not find adequate summer employment, like Nyman are still struggling.

"It's not enough," said Nyman after receiving his OSAP estimate for the 2009-2010 school year.



COURTESY OF JAMES BLAIKIE

The long-awaited SkyTrain, shown here under construction in 2008, opened Aug. 17. Daily ridership is expected to hit 300,000 by 2010.

Vancouver opens innovative rail line

DAVID GOLDBERG
WEB EDITOR

Vancouver is officially the first Canadian city to make a direct transit link to a major airport. The SkyTrain just unveiled their new "Canada Line."

The cost of the project was \$2 billion and was spread between all three levels of government, with Ottawa pumping in the most funds.

It was designed with Vancouver's hosting of the 2010 Olympics in mind and was completed three weeks ahead of schedule.

TransLink is the company that has operated the SkyTrain for the last 10 years.

Ken Hardie a spokesperson for TransLink said that it was because of the dedicated people working on the project that it has been so successful.

"Everything has simply exceeded expectations," he said.

The SkyTrain's ridership has been steadily increasing since the first line opened in the 1980s and it is expected to break 300,000 passengers daily by 2010.

Jeff Casello, a professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Planning, believes that projects like this are important to the growth of a city.

"A rail connection to the airport certainly makes things much more convenient and makes the access into

the city much more readily available," he said.

This development of Vancouver's transit will be the key to keeping the city accessible because the population is expected to take on one million more people by 2030.

By population, Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and Vancouver International Airport is the country's second busiest airport.

Toronto ranks number one in each of these categories but has no plans to incorporate their own transit link to Pearson.

It has a lot of experts like Casello realized how far Toronto has fallen behind.

"It's really unbelievable at this point. Given the amount of volume that goes through Pearson on a daily basis, the fact that you can't get there from the downtown by rail is really surprising."

In fact, as Casello points out, the majority of Canada seems to be falling behind the rest of the world.

"Nearly every European city, you land in has a direct train into the downtown core."

Currently there are no plans in motion for the rest of Canada's largest cities.



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GRAND RIVER TRANSIT

Canada in brief

Student groups, universities singing "big five" blues

QUEBEC (CUP) – The presidents of five of Canada's top universities have spent the summer calling for a greater share of research funding. Currently these five – the universities of Toronto, Montreal, Alberta, British Columbia, and McGill – receive just over 30 per cent of the over \$2.5 billion given out annually by the federal government for university research.

The presidents of these "big five" universities are also calling for a national debate on the future of post-secondary education in Canada.

However, Amit Chakma, president of the University of Western Ontario, said instead that the "chronic underfunding" of Canadian universities needs to be examined and fixed.

– Jacob Serebrin, Quebec Bureau Chief

York gym implements women-only gym time

ONTARIO (CUP) – Starting this fall, York University's Tait McKenzie fitness centre will be implementing a women-only time slot for a portion of the facility.

An area will be specifically reserved for women during this allotted time, and men will not be permitted in the area.

Darshika Selvasivam, YFS vice-president of Campaigns and Advocacy, said, "There have been requests from students to have available space for women to participate in the recreational facilities for some time, and now it's finally going to happen."

Around the York campus, many students appeared supportive of the idea.

– Ryan Buchanan, Excalibur

UBC students, admin united against financial aid cuts

BRITISH COLUMBIA (CUP) – The students and administration at the University of British Columbia are speaking out together against the \$16 million in cuts to student financial aid made by the provincial government in July.

At the Aug. 19 council meeting of UBC's Alma Mater Society – the student society of the Vancouver

campus – council voted to "authorize an awareness campaign in regards to the cuts" and work towards adequate funding for student aid.

Vancouver's the *Province* newspaper reported in July that the cuts are part of the provincial government's bid to reduce costs by about \$1.9 billion over the next three years.

– Samantha Jung, the Ubyssy

Threats of November election

ONTARIO – On Sept. 1, Michael Ignatieff, leader of the Liberal opposition, announced that he would no longer support the Conservative government. MP Bob Rae was quoted by the *Toronto Star* stating that the Liberals

would present a non-confidence motion at the earliest opportunity, being October of this year.

– Compiled by Linda Givetash

Liberals support medical isotopes

ONTARIO – While touring McMaster University on Aug. 29 and 30, leader of the opposition Michael Ignatieff stated his support in funding the nuclear reactor.

The university needs \$44.3 million over the next five years to be able to produce moly-99 isotopes that are in dire need with the temporary closure of the Chalk River nuclear facility.

– Compiled by Linda Givetash

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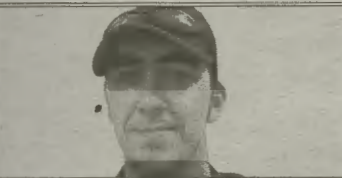
INTERNATIONAL

International Editor Paula Millar • pmillar@thecord.ca

Lines on a map



Affiniam, Senegal



JOSH SMYTH
International Columnist

"If I'm alive next year, I think I'll plant this field."

I was out for a walk through the fields and forests near the tiny village of Affiniam in the Casamance region of Senegal where Clement, my friend and guide, was showing me his land.

The matter-of-fact consideration of his own mortality came up as we looked over a small field that he had yet to plant since returning from the city some years ago.

Clement is 52, and in some ways is lucky. He lives in Senegal, where statistics say he should have another 11 years ahead of him.

As one of the wealthier countries in the region, Senegal can afford to provide more care to its people than its neighbours can.

In Guinea, life expectancy sits at 56; in Sierra Leone, 42.

Such statistics come up a lot when people try and convince us that Africa needs help. Fair enough.

Although the statistics themselves are weighted heavily by incredibly high infant mortality levels, that only makes it even more horrifying.

Anyone with even a passing interest in the continent encounters a parade of similar numbers – HDI rankings, vaccination statistics, access-to-water measures, and more. For all things, there are measurements; this is especially true for the metric-obsessed development industry.

Statistics themselves can be pretty untrustworthy. I have had plenty of friends witness the fabrication of statistics at every level, from the village clinic to the national ministry. They can only ever be a guide. Let us, then, take them as such. What are they actually telling us?

Extracting meaning from a pile of numbers is always dicey. However, for most Westerners, the parade of dig-

its serves as a powerful instrument of othering.

When the only picture of an entire continent is the indicators of its pain, it is all too easy to resort to the stereotypes of bloated-bellies-and-Kalashnikovs, the pictures of people who are in every way not like us. These are the people we send sacks of food aid to or see parading across Sunday morning TV screens in a World Vision commercial.

A few days on the continent bursts that bubble pretty effectively. I spent five months backpacking and volunteering in East Africa before I started at Laurier, and I remember sitting in my introductory global studies tutorials furious at the way we were categorizing people as charity cases.

I would lift up my hand and launch into a self-righteous lecture that generally made the point that people all over lived lives just like us. No less complicated, no less inspirational, no less emotional.

To a large extent, I still believe that to be true.

The politics of an African village are certainly not much different than a Canadian city, and I still get ticked off when people imply that "village life" is somehow simpler, or purer, than our materialistic Canadian version.

My friends who live in poverty? They would rather not. They would rather have a television, and a good pair of shoes, and all those things that make life a little bit easier, and they are willing to work for it.

I am back on the road in West Africa now, having finished five years at Laurier, and I still am amazed at the consistency of human life under such differing circumstances. I spend a lot of time drinking cold beers with the local fellows or just grabbing a sandwich and chatting to the market ladies, and the conversations are pleasantly commonplace.

Dangerously so, in fact.

Back, perhaps, to Clement. What struck me about his attitude toward the future, and what often strikes me all over the continent, is the pervasive fatalism that lay under it.

Whatever happens, happens.

If we die, we die.

Any Westerner that has spent much time trying to make a difference here crashes headlong at some point into a wall of unwillingness to make the small changes that could lead to a better future.

The stories are endless – how difficult it is to convince people to boil water before drinking it, or to teach their children how to swim so that they don't drown (as a friend's child did) falling out of the boat on the way to school.

Think for a moment about the last conversation you had with your friends. How much of it focused on plans for the future, on things you will do, or want to do, or hope to do?

It's the dominant subtext of social interaction in a Western world where aspirations are everything, and where we feel, most of the time, in control. With this attitude we often set off for the disadvantaged parts of the world and come back disillusioned and burned out by the experience.

This is what I was missing when I went on those rants in GS 101 – being honest with myself about the limits of our common ground with those who have so much less than we do. Sometimes, the surface machinations conceal a psychology that is so battered by circumstance as to render it barely recognizable.

So what do we do? That is the sort of question that's just asking for a trite answer, and I don't honestly have one.

Perhaps it is a matter of attitude, of learning to approach the rest of the world with humility and realism. Perhaps it comes down to helping the many, many people who are trying so hard to break the cycle of disappointed expectations.

Finally, perhaps we should take a look at the abundance of our own government's policies that help to impoverish the rest of the world.

As for those terrible stats? They are, however slowly, getting better.

There is every reason to hope we can speed them up.

Josh Smyth is an alumnus of Wilfrid Laurier University. His column "Lines on a Map" will be a recurring feature in Cord International. It will document Josh's travel adventures throughout Western Africa.

World in brief

Summer 2009

Iran elections turn into revolt

TEHRAN, IRAN – Riot police and immense crowds followed the June 12 Iranian election, as the results were widely contested.

According to CNN, the opposition has accused President-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of tampering with the results.

Opposition candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi has stated that he was a victim of election fraud and that his followers, who have taken their demonstration to the street, seem to agree.

– Compiled by Arshad Desai

Election count continues

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – As votes are tallied in the war-torn Afghanistan questions about the country's future remain unanswered.

When Afghans went to the polls Aug. 20, the *New York Times* reported that the results continue to be delayed amidst growing accusations of election fraud.

According to the *Washington Post*, 40-50 per cent of the eligible Afghan population turned up to vote, making voter turnout across the country exceptionally low.

– Compiled by Paula Millar

North Korea returns American journalists

PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA – The *Washington Post* reports that it took a visit from former American President Bill Clinton for North Korean officials to hand over two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, who were held captive in the secretive state since March 17.

North Korea is adamant that the two reporters, who were filming a documentary on the North Korean-Chinese border, crossed illegally into North Korean territory and were subsequently apprehended.

To date the exact details of the detainment, detention and trial of the two Americans remains highly disputed.

Regardless, on Aug. 4 the journalists were safely back on American soil and reunited with their families.

– Compiled by Paula Millar

Healthcare debate grows

UNITED STATES – American President Barack Obama promised Americans healthcare reform.

However, the economic crisis has severely hampered many of his pricier election platform features, including this.

Nonetheless, the healthcare debate just south of the border rages on.

In light of the recent death of Senator Ted Kennedy, fuel has only been added to the fire.

According to the *Toronto Star*, this is because "long before he fell ill, Kennedy made health care a major focus of his career, terming it 'the cause of my life.'"

– Compiled by Paula Millar

Northern caucasus relapse

NORTH CAUCASUS, RUSSIA – After success over terrorism was recently hailed in Russia's troubled North Caucasus region, today it appears the celebrations were premature.

Regrettably, the end of the government's "Anti-Terrorism Program" has brought violence back to the region. According to *Russia Today*, terrorist at-

tacks have taken place in a seemingly simultaneous fashion in recent weeks.

The *Associated Press* reports that Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said, "Some time ago, we got an impression that the situation regarding terrorism in the Caucasus has significantly improved. Regrettably, recent events have shown it's not the case."

Overall, the situation in the problematic North Caucasus republics of Dagestan, Chechnya and Ingushetia continues to deteriorate on almost a daily basis.

– Compiled by Paula Millar

Drug wars escalate

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO – A crackdown on Mexican drug cartels was launched and well underway this summer.

According to BBC, the Mexican government spent the majority of the summer months attempting to weed out high level corruption, well-established in the country's law enforcement and political system.

Despite hefty setbacks, Mexican President Felipe Calderon continues to champion the cause of fighting high powered drug traffickers in his country.

According to *Reuters*, the Mexican drug war is responsible for 13,000 deaths in the last three years.

– Compiled by Paula Millar

Locker bomber sent home

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND – The man behind the bombing of PanAm flight 103, which exploded over the skies of Lockerbie, Scotland on Dec. 21, 1988, has been released.

BBC reports that Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the man indicted for the bombing has returned home to Libya after years of suffering from cancer.

According to BBC, tensions and emotions ran high in the United Kingdom as al-Megrahi returned home to an almost victory celebration in Libya.

– Compiled by Paula Millar

North Korea in final uranium phase

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA – Uranium enrichment tests in North Korea have been successfully carried out, and the project is entering its final phase of completion.

If the process is fully completed, it could result in increased pressure from the rest of the world to abandon nuclear work.

North Korea has been testing plutonium-based warheads since 2006.

– Compiled by Lauren Millet

New protests in western China

XINJIANG, CHINA – Fresh protests have arisen in the city of Urumqi, where back in July protests killed over 200 people.

Reports place nearly 2,000 Han Chinese people demonstrating in the capital.

The protests appear to be triggered by stabbings using hyperdermic syringes.

Nearly 500 people have been treated for similar stab wounds in the past.

– Compiled by Lauren Millet

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Relaunching this fall

"A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic."

- Joseph Stalin

Equating evils in the year 2009

In July 2009, 70 years after the Second World War, the evils of Stalin are equated with those of Hitler and the two men are given equal blame for the Second World War

PAULA MILLAR
INTERNATIONAL EDITOR

Today, many younger generations in the Western world have little concept of the horrors and injustices of the former Soviet Union.

Throughout the 20th century, as the Soviets secured themselves the position of vilified other in the world order, the face of Russian humanity was never recognized.

Behind the shield of the Iron Curtain, in what Ronald Regan called an "evil empire", the leadership preached Communist ideology, nurtured mass industrialization and championed scientific advancement while terrorizing the free world – not to mention, its own people.

In Edward Lucas's *The New Cold War*, Lucas remarks that during World War II, Polish Jews in the country's east chose to take their chances with the Nazi's rather than face Soviet forces, which meant a certain death.

This subtle reality speaks volumes.

Today, similar comparisons between Soviet and Nazi forces lead to outright denial as controversial history is buried rather than discussed and debated.

Time and time again, *Russia Today* reports on foreign bodies accusing the current Medvedev Administration of "glorifying the Soviet past" and selectively rewriting or "whitewashing history."

Many Russian history textbooks ignore large portions of incriminating and less than flattering Soviet-era history.

Such a selective memory when it comes to their history has spilt over into the Russian education system.

Today, Russian students do not study the Second World War, but instead, learn of the Great Patriotic War. Furthermore, Russian students only know of fighting between the years of 1941 and 1945. This timeframe allows for the always controversial Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact of 1939 to be omitted from history texts altogether.

Despite the denials, holes are gradually being cut in the Iron Curtain and realities are emerging that are even worse than most imagined. The archives hold the real truths: startling death tolls, Stalin's murderous Purges, the Great Terror, death by famine, and the Gulags.

The question of equating Nazi and Stalinist evils is a touchy subject to say the least.

This is because drawing comparisons between one atrocity and another is never without repercussions or offense to some party.

Comparisons necessitate systematically dissecting some tragedy, defining markers for how "bad" or "not so bad" it really was, and assigning a ranking system to evil.

Most families of victims will tell you evil should be evil regardless of the death toll. Therefore, the question of whether it is right to say someone is more or less evil than another remains a subject most politically correct governments of the free world are not willing to weigh in on.

However, in July 2009, the Parliamentary assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) did just that.

Nearly 70 years after the Second World War, the European assembly passed a resolution equating the evils of Joseph Stalin with those of Adolf

Hitler. The OSCE deemed that Nazism and Stalinism regimes "brought about genocide, violations of human rights and freedoms, war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Lithuania and Slovenia spearheaded the original motion to indict Stalin and predictably, the Ukraine and other Baltic States followed suit. All countries loudly supported equating their former aggressor with the evils of Nazi Germany. However, not all are backing this cause.

For one, Russia has officially condemned such a parallel between their former Soviet leader and that of Hitler. According to *Russia Today*, "many see the document as blatant attack on Russia."

Additionally, a number of Russian officials have denounced the comparison outright, categorizing the resolution as yet another Western-grown anti-Russian doctrine.

However, reluctance to admit Stalin's evil or to acknowledge a shameful past is nothing new.

In a 2007 interview, then-Russian President Vladimir Putin conceded, "Problematic pages in our history exist."

However, he explained, "We have less than some countries. And ours are not as terrible as those of some others."

Similarly, when pressed on the issue in 2005, Putin remarked, "I cannot agree with equating Stalin with Hitler. Yes, Stalin was certainly a tyrant and many call him a criminal, but he was not a Nazi."

Whatever the case, the OSCE ruling was final.

In addition to officially equating Stalinism with Nazism, Aug. 23 was decided as the day on which to

Today, Russian students do not study the Second World War, but instead, learn of the Great Patriotic War. Furthermore, Russian students only know of fighting between the years of 1941 and 1945. This timeframe allows for the always controversial Hitler-Stalin Non-Aggression Pact of 1939 to be omitted from history texts altogether.

commemorate the victims of both the Nazi regime and Soviet Stalinism. This date will be remembered as the first ever Europe-wide condemnation of totalitarianism in all forms.

The statistics

Hitler

Number of direct murder victims: 15.5 million (median)
Today the exact number of victim's directly murdered by Hitler is disputed.
Historians argue anywhere between: 10 to 25 million.

Stalin

The height of Stalin's purges was in 1930s.
Today the exact number of Stalin's victims is disputed.
For the 1930s historians argue anywhere between 8 to 20 million victims.
Overall historians argue total Stalin-era victims around 51 million (median)

The Second World War/ Great Patriotic War

Civilians: 28 million (deaths specifically in Europe)
Soldiers: 14 million (deaths specifically in Europe)

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Smuggling to survive

Victoria Isadrru tells her harrowing tale of life in war-torn Uganda

HEATHER MACDONALD
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
GRANT RECIPIENT

Victoria Isadrru, now a middle-aged woman with five children, was born in the "Pearl of Africa:" Arua District, Uganda.

Vicky witnessed Uganda's most recent war firsthand as a teenager and barely lived through it. She reflects, "When they came, they were killing everything that was alive."

She traveled between Uganda, Sudan, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to provide for her family.

Vicky is one of the few Ugandans who has kept a successful career within the government despite its chaotic history – but this achievement came at a price. Vicky's story is one of inspiration and intrigue, but it is most of all about a woman with such passion that no matter who or what tried to bring her down, she prevailed.

Idi Amin became the third president of Uganda from 1971 to 1979 when his military coup overthrew President Milton Obote. Amin's replacement resulted in one of the most deadly dictatorships of our time.

During that time, up to 500,000 people were killed, and countless human rights atrocities were committed.

In the midst of the war, Vicky met and fell in love with a doctor named Dominique. Despite the state of their country and Vicky's lack of education at the time, they decided to get married.

Vicky and Dominique lived at the hospital for one year. It was at the onset of another guerilla war against the Acholi people that they had to flee from the hospital with their one-week-old baby in hand.

With soldiers invading the northern district, its population stayed in hiding for two days. Vicky recalled two vivid images. One was the support received from the United Nations as they dropped boxes of emergency aid from airplanes in the sky.

The other image was not as pleasant. Vicky remembers mass graves: one for the women, another for the men.

As the civilian death toll rose, a popular saying was born. Vicky explained that "one man, one bullet" meant that not a bullet could be shot without killing someone.



HEATHER MACDONALD | GRANT RECIPIENT

Vicky Isadrru speaks about providing for her family during the many conflicts of Africa's Congo Basin.

WLU Student Publications grant

Although the Red Cross offered to send people from the DRC to Canada, Vicky and Dominique declined because of their love for Uganda. Dominique found a job that allowed him to provide his family with a home and a car, but he wasn't happy. Vicky said that Dominique started drinking and beating her. This forced Vicky out of her own home at times.

"Me and my baby had to stay in the bush [in front of our house] sometimes," Vicky reminisced with slight laughter. But she couldn't handle it any longer.

At 23, Vicky, who was then expecting a second child, and her firstborn fled to the DRC, which was 15 kilometres away. Vicky met a man who sympathized with her situation and

provided her with a place to live and some money each month.

Vicky began saving her money and took on a job of her own: smuggling medicine across Ugandan and Congolese borders.

Instead of keeping the drug money, Vicky would buy gold and sell it for triple the price in Kampala.

She risked paralysis by swallowing the gold in order to smuggle it across the border.

Vicky explained that after swallowing the gold "you would eat lots of cassava, drink a litre of water and the next day you poop it out." She claimed she "became rich," but it wasn't enough.

After many years, Vicky decided to find her mother in the Arua District.

She did, but with two dependents and her mother recently widowed for the second time, Vicky began looking for a new way to support her family.

Vicky said she told her mom to take care of her children and continued, "I went to Nairobi, I sold my gold and I bought cocaine."

Despite the risk of death as a penalty that comes with possession of cocaine, "I felt I didn't have enough food for my family," Vicky said.

On her way back to Arua, Vicky passed three roadblocks with little inconvenience, but almost didn't make it through the fourth and final one.

It was just five kilometres from her home.

Vicky had been taking advantage of traveling with dead bodies, pretending that two of them were her brothers. At the last roadblock, the soldiers opened the caskets to check the bodies.

Flies swarmed and a stench that was too awful to bear drove Vicky away from the car during the inspection.

Vicky pretended she was a madwoman, leaving the soldiers with no choice but to avoid questioning her.

Although she passed the final checkpoint, Vicky gagged as she reminisced.

"The smell of [the dead bodies] got to me," leaving her with a loss of

"The smell of [dead bodies] got to me." It left Vicky with a loss of appetite for one week and no desire to eat meat for one year.

appetite for one week and no desire to eat meat for a year.

Vicky's recovery from her past has helped her to become who she is today.

She completed her schooling in her late 30s and, in May, President Yoweri Museveni appointed Vicky Chief Administrator for the National Resistance Movement (NRM). Vicky's strong faith has led her to believe that God is awarding her and that "everybody will support [her] because of Jesus."

Today Vicky sleeps in a humble home with her family in Arua, Uganda.

She recognizes the corruption among many members of the current political party but responds to her income ethically.

"I have money but it is not for me, it is for the community," Vicky states.



HEATHER MACDONALD | GRANT RECIPIENT

A rural Ugandan village, much like the one Vicky Isadrru and her family finally call home after years of fleeing the violence that has plagued her country for decades.

Travel advisory

Guiding volunteers over

Examining how many students abroad are underprepared for the volunteering and how Laurier's global studies department is working to address a hazardous trend



NICHOLAS LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

ALANNA WALLACE
IN DEPTH EDITOR

For many, volunteering overseas provides the perfect mixture of travel, adventure and self-sacrifice.

But traveling as a volunteer abroad is full of unforeseen hurdles and obstacles.

Many university students have realized too late that they lacked the personal, emotional and practical training they needed to venture out into the field of humanitarian, development and medical aid in developing countries around the world.

"They told us it was going to be hard," Wilfrid Laurier University student Brier Pennanen says of her pre-departure training before her trip to rural South Africa. She volunteered to work on a medical project with an international volunteer organization.

"We knew it was going to be hard, but being in the situation you're in, when you're sticking your hand in a bed sore ... I don't think you can understand something like this until you're in the situation; they don't teach you it in school."

"People who choose projects that are touching and challenging, there needs to be some sort of counseling session ... maybe workshops on coping."

NGOs like Northeast Medical Teams International and specialists like Robert Young Pelton in his book *The World's Most Dangerous Places* warn against the effects of traveling and volunteering abroad.

This is particularly true in especially intense and emotional environments, where volunteers can become susceptible to the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and reactions (PTSR).

Volunteers need to be forewarned that PTSD can manifest itself in a variety of small ways, including avoiding connections to past events, distressing dreams or even disturbed sleep.

"PTSR can be treated easily and effectively, sometimes with only one counseling or debriefing session," explains Pelton's book.

And with the United Nations alone boasting volunteers numbering almost 8000, there are many individuals around the world who need to be made aware that preparation for volunteer missions abroad is a necessary component for all levels of humanitarian work.

Uncharted waters

The emotional toll that volunteering abroad can take on university students is not the only concern for those considering this type of travel.

When traveling abroad "expect the unexpected" is Pennanen's motto.

Pennanen, who just recently returned

from two months abroad working on a medical project in rural South Africa with African Impact, claims that the biggest hurdle she encountered while volunteering – along with the emotional toll the project took on her – was learning to work as a team with upwards of 20 other international students.

"You have to fly by the seat of your pants," Pennanen explains. Although she claims that her experience abroad was generally a good one, she warns that adequate preparation is an imperative component of volunteering overseas.

"I can imagine if someone had a negative experience that preparation ahead of time could have been helpful."

Beau Frigault, a graduate student of the University of Guelph who traveled to Ecuador to build a school two years ago, agrees.

He believes that students need to prepare for the worst and that many are unaware that their volunteering abroad will involve such an unstructured life style.

"Go into the excursion with an open mind," he suggests. "You will see things you never thought you would ... you will be pushed out of your comfort zone and ... your view of the world will change."

No 'I' in team

Both Pennanen and Frigault believe that forming strong ties with teammates on projects will help smooth out any unpreparedness that a volunteer encounters.

"Having a social network around you to support you in those really hard times is important," Pennanen explained. "I would have just sat and cried if I hadn't had people agree things were upsetting and told me the next step; here's what we can do, here's how we can change the situation."

Jen Holden, who recently returned from Peru, agrees. Holden believes that her trip's success was the result of her fellow volunteers.

"There were a lot of us [but] everyone got along so well and felt that we gained so much from each other," she explains.

Holden warns on choosing the right NGO or volunteer organization.

"There are honestly some that are much better than others," Holden said. If a volunteer's first experience is a bad one "it'll deter people away from doing volunteer work."

Alison Schofield, a returning Laurier student who volunteered delivering food during a famine in rural India in the summer of 2008, has returned to Morocco as a leadership intern, helping a Global Youth Network group complete their school project.

Schofield claims that creating a team atmosphere helped prepare her

volunteers for the worst while they were abroad. She also warns of the emotional toll volunteering can take on most individuals.

"You meet a lot of people and you see a lot of different plights," she explains.

"You do kind of feel a sense of guilt for being able to have won God's Lottery to be born in North America."

"Know why you're going and be true to that," Schofield warns, claiming that you only get out of a volunteer experience what you put into it.

Help from a rejuvenated Global Studies Experience

Not only is it important to create positive ties with teammates while volunteering abroad, it is also important to have support back home before one leaves on his or her adventure abroad.

It is an issue many Laurier students have struggled with.

Volunteering abroad as a Laurier student has been a contentious issue in the past few years, especially for those participating in the global studies department's Global Studies Experience (GSE) program.

If approved, global studies students are able to receive a credit towards their undergraduate degree for a service of over four weeks in a placement overseas, or in some special incidences, at home in Canada.

Once a mandatory requirement for big draw for global studies students, the GSE program has experienced a sad fall from grace.

"I felt that I was just doing everything on my own, completely in the dark," explains Pennanen.

"There has to be a social network within global studies [made up of] students that are doing the GSE," she said. "I think [the department] is working on that."

The global studies department is making amends to a program that has failed to adequately prepare students for their placements abroad in past years.

"It was more my organization that prepared me," said Schofield, who completed her GSE last fall.

"I don't necessarily blame the global studies department," Schofield continued. "I know that they are working on [improving] it, which is a little bit comforting."

Chair of the department Michel Desjardins says that the GSE is undergoing some major changes.

This coming year, students will have to enroll in a two part in-class requirement – one class is taken in the winter semester before one leaves on the volunteer trip, and the other half is taken upon their return the following fall semester.

Desjardins hopes that this change

erseas

ships of overseas
to change this

ill "create more clarity on the part of
students" and allow them to enter their
work with "eyes wide open."

The department is also creating the
Global Students' Education Abroad
Fund, in which faculty members will
be putting money towards monetary
scholarships. Desjardins notes that the
grants could amount to \$500 for each
student that is selected.

"[We are] hoping this fund is the be-
ginning of something more substantial,"
Desjardins, who believes that vol-
unteering abroad is a necessary compo-
nent and "the beginning of more serious
reflection" for participants once they are
back in the classroom.

However, those involved recognize
that the changes to the GSE program
will not happen overnight.

"[It's] a two to three year project for
us," said Desjardins. He hopes that the
change in structure of in-class theoreti-
cal teachings will create a better envi-
ronment where students can achieve the
support system they need to learn from
each others' experiences, much like the
social network Pennanen suggests.

As for the emotional toll that vol-
unteering abroad puts on participants,
Timothy Donais, who will be the in-
structor for next year's GSE class, hopes
that the preparation of a class before-
hand, which will contain both practical
and theoretical components, will better
prepare Laurier students for their trips
overseas.

"What we're hoping to do is to give
them the opportunity to get started on
the thought process before they leave
they're much better able to pro-
cess some of these big questions while
they're there and also further reflect
on them when they return," explains
Donais.

Whether they agree or disagree on
what is most important for the prepa-
ration of volunteers abroad, there's no
doubt that the global studies depart-
ment values the GSE program.

Those who have participated in expe-
riences abroad agree that it is an impor-
tant component not only for students
of international affairs, but for anyone
who is willing to give their all on a proj-
ect overseas.

"Do it while you have the means to do
it," said Schofield.

"It makes some of the stuff they read
come alive in the way that it doesn't if
you've never been out there, and allows
you to be more critical," agrees Donais.

Every moment of this experience
was to the fullest extent rewarding be-
yond words," gushes Holden.

And most agree, despite their emo-
tional and physical hardships and the
time of volunteering abroad, at the
end of the day the experiences etched in
their minds are positive ones.



ALANNA WALLACE IN DEPTH EDITOR



Being in the situation
you're in when you're
sticking your hand in a
bed sore ... they don't
teach you it in school.

— Brier Pennanen, volunteer
and Laurier student



COURTESY OF JEN HOLDEN



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fullest extent rewarding
beyond words.

— Jen Holden, volunteer and Laurier student



COURTESY OF ALISON SCHOFIELD



You do kind of feel a
sense of guilt for being
able to have won God's
Lottery to be born in
North America.

— Alison Schofield, volunteer
and Laurier student

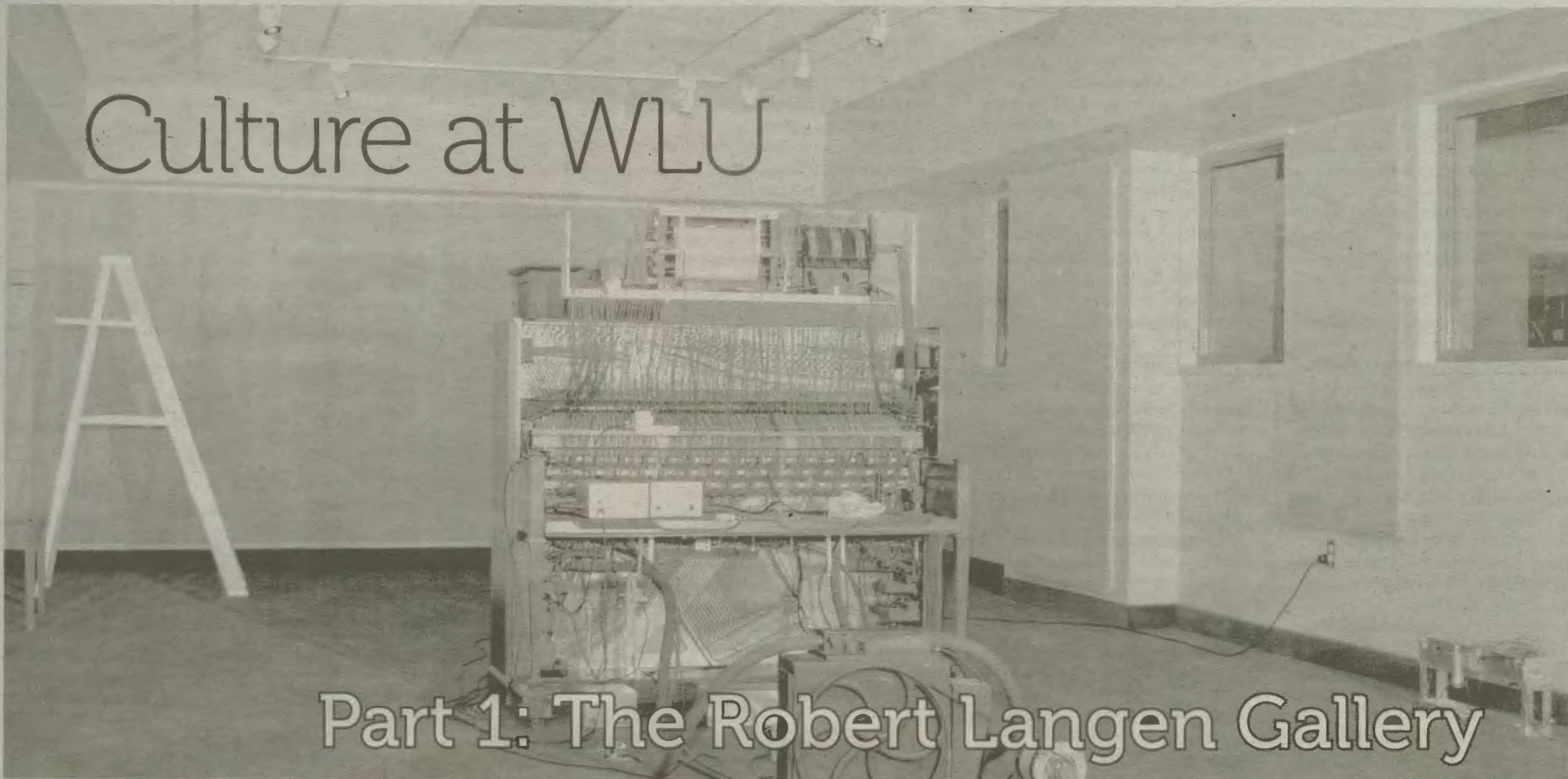


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Arts Editor Rebecca Vasluianu • rvastuianu@thecord.ca



Culture at WLU

Part 1: The Robert Langen Gallery

NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Marla Hlady's kinetic sculpture *Playing Piano* – one of this year's four exhibits – is set up in the unopen gallery. Her piece will remain on display until Oct. 24.

KATIE FLOOD
STAFF WRITER

With the goal of stimulating appreciation, enjoyment and knowledge of Canadian art and culture, the Robert Langen Art Gallery re-opens on Wednesday, Sept. 16, and will be offering four new exhibits this school year.

Funded mainly by the university, the Langen Gallery, which was established in 1989, features Canadian artists working in a variety of disciplines and techniques.

According to the gallery's curator Suzanne Luke, this year's four exhibits will include sculpture, photography, video and a mixed media installation.

With the goal of making the gallery's art connect with student life, each exhibition will relate to a specific course being taught at the university,

including those in the music, history, communication studies and women's studies fields; as well, each artist will be required to give a lecture at the class associated with his or her exhibition.

"This is a better way of connecting the gallery to the whole campus," said Luke.

"We're accessing a whole range of different students on campus and giving them the opportunity to come to the gallery and experience visual arts," she continued.

Luke explained that the Langen Gallery plays a key role for all students by allowing them to investigate avenues that they wouldn't normally.

Often people find themselves intimidated by the complex nature of art when they walk into a community gallery, Luke said, adding that the Langen Gallery provides an opportunity for students to become acquainted with art on campus.

"When we have these new installations, it gives students a new appreciation for art and helps break down those barriers and allow them to explore other exhibition venues in the community," she added.

"It gives students the opportunity for new experiences and that's the basis of a well-rounded education."

Currently on display

Marla Hlady's *Playing Piano* is being showcased in the first exhibition of the year. Running from Sept. 16 to Oct. 24, Hlady's kinetic sculptures relate to a music composition course.

A professor at the University of Toronto, Hlady's work has been displayed internationally since 1990. *Playing Piano* has been showcased in throughout Canada for the past year.

Nothing like a classic art exhibition, *Playing Piano* features a piano that has been restructured and modified to explore the mechanics of sound, and

examine how we listen to and experience our environment.

Hlady has customized the piano to present its interior functions – it has been turned inside out, with the meat and bones of the piano on display. The reel has been relocated to the top of the piano, where a system of tubing and wires has been attached.

The tubing and wires, along with an old piano roll and microprocessor-controlled machines allow the piano to generate its own sound. Marla has engineered the piano to play a composition that she has modified.

"I'll never give away what the piece is before opening," said Hlady, encouraging students to come see and listen to the piano themselves.

—With files from Rebecca Vasluianu

The series "Culture at WLU" will continue for the next two weeks, exploring different avenues for the arts on campus.

Exhibits

Sept. 16 – Oct. 24
Marla Hlady: *Playing Piano*
Kinetic sculpture

Oct. 28 – Dec. 5
Jeff Thomas: *VERSO*
Photography

Jan. 6 – Feb. 13
Ed Pien: *From Thin Air*
Video installation

Feb. 24 – Apr. 3
Janet Morton: *Hive*
Mixed media

The Robert Langen Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the John Aird Centre. Admission is free and the gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from noon until 5 p.m.

Profiling a playwright

Laurier's Sunil Kuruvilla speaks to *The Cord* about his critically acclaimed play *Rice Boy* and his passion for script writing

REBECCA VASLUIANU
ARTS EDITOR

Sunil Kuruvilla lives a double life. To the Laurier community, he is known as an English graduate turned marketing and promotions co-ordinator for the faculty of music.

In the theatre world, he is a celebrated playwright whose award-winning plays have been produced across North America.

For Kuruvilla, writing plays is what characterizes his identity.

"It's my primary profession," he stated. "When I go to sleep at night I'm thinking about plays, not other things," he continued.

His most recent stage is the prestigious Stratford Shakespeare Festival, at which his play *Rice Boy* opened on Aug. 22.

Rice Boy tells the story of an East Indian-Canadian father and son who are stricken by loss.

Years after his wife's tragic death from drowning, the father chooses to bring his son – who has been unruly and lacking discipline – back to India.

His son then falls in love with his cousin, whose fate is also tragic.

"Suddenly father and son are in the same situation grieving," explained Kuruvilla.

The story is one of both individuals' personal experiences with grief and their connection throughout the ordeal.

While the background of the main characters and the situation of much of the story in Kuruvilla's residence of Waterloo, bear a striking resemblance to his life, he stresses that the plotline of *Rice Boy* is not wholly autobiographical.

"The folkloric elements of the story are definitely autobiographical," said Kuruvilla, explaining that they are derived from his personal experiences from trips to India.

While the theme of loss is not based on his life directly, Kuruvilla believes that it is a universal theme.

"I think I'm just like everybody else. I've loved people who have gone away through death or just natural erosion," he explained.

While Kuruvilla enjoyed seeing *Rice Boy* come to fruition, he admits that he

enjoys reading plays much more than watching them.

"I'm not a theatre guy. I don't really get turned on by going to a play," he laughed.

"I love reading plays and I love working on a play with good actors, but it's all really more about a script."

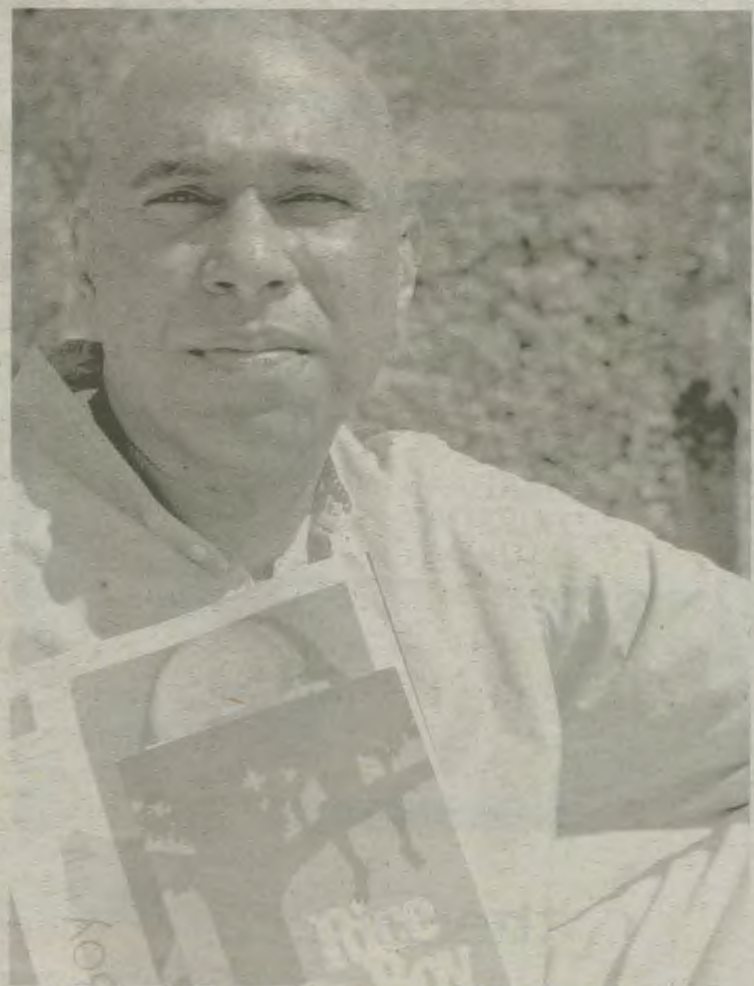
Kuruvilla said that he is often found furiously fixing his script or looking for the audience's reaction instead of watching the play intently.

Ever since he graduated from Laurier, writing has been Kuruvilla's true passion.

While doing his undergrad, Kuruvilla felt his creative style of writing was out of place; but discovered his niche when he attended the University of Windsor for a Masters in English, during which he was taught by Allister MacLeod, Canadian author of *No Great Mischief*.

"Writing plays is a compulsion," he explained, adding that the dwindling popularity of theatre does not faze him.

"The audiences may be small, but there will always be people who will listen."



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Off the beaten path

Creators of hit show *Departures* talk about life on the road

ANNE DONAHUE
STAFF WRITER

Since premiering in 2008, OLN's show *Departures* has evolved from a travel show with a modest following to an award-winning movement, garnering public and critical praise for its premise, creativity and uniqueness.

With their lust for adventure and life experience, hosts Scott Wilson, Justin Lukach and director of photography Andre Dupuis have captivated audiences by promoting their personal beliefs that anything is possible.

"We had an idea and we tried really hard to make it happen and went through a lot of rough times," begins Wilson, the co-creator of the show.

"We literally bankrupted ourselves ... to make this thing happen."

Wilson explained that he and Dupuis were working on another travel show that they were not entirely happy with before they began shooting the pilot of *Departures*.

"We had a lot of great ideas of what we thought would make a good TV show, but no real concrete concept."

Dupuis also stated that they noticed their personal travel experiences were not translating to the show's content.

"Our experiences from being there and smelling it and doing all this stuff – feeling it – didn't make the final show. We asked ourselves why is that. How can we really capture the moment; to capture everything?"

After filming in New Zealand, Wilson and Dupuis sat on the footage for two years before bringing it to the

network; after an immediate response from network executives, Wilson contacted childhood friend and fellow Brantford native Lukach.

"And I said 'sure', and I quit everything. I actually quit my job before it was 100 per cent," Lukach recalls.

Fans of *Departures* can attest that the sense of spontaneity present in the show's origins has been maintained throughout the course of the series.

While travelling from India to Antarctica, the team endured everything from life-threatening lightning storms (an episode that earned Dupuis a Gemini for Best Photography) to bridge jumping.

Dupuis explained that at this point there is little they have not done.

"Now it's, 'Where's left?' ... or, 'That place looks dangerous – let's go!'"

"We've definitely pushed our limits to the point where anything's possible," Lukach added.

However, with great victories come great obstacles, and the guys are quick to admit that they've been affected by the challenges they've faced.

"[I'm] more open to things, more willing to push myself... I've just become more aware," said Wilson.

He adds that one of the challenges is maintaining a sense of reality.

"It's hard to wake yourself up and realize we're not just here for our job, it's not just happening in the world of television – this is all real life."

Lukach also mentioned that being on the road for so long makes it hard to maintain a personal life, making him question whether he should continue travelling.

He states that at times it makes him question whether he should go home and stop travelling.

"And then [there's another opportunity] ... and it's just like 'wow'.... this is what we do," he added.

Dupuis agrees, commenting that "there are some days where ... you can hardly bear to lift a camera."

"The adventure is just to keep pushing ourselves," Dupuis added. "We're always pushing ourselves to go and meet new cultures and to keep the show interesting."

Undoubtedly, the success of *Departures* is a result of the team's determination to experience life to the fullest and allow viewers to relate to and live vicariously through them.

"You don't need to be on the other side of the world to have a crazy adventure," Lukach said.

"It's the people you travel with; it doesn't matter where you are.... There are a lot of roads out there and they'll take you to some of the most amazing places."

Wilson agreed, stating "this was an idea that seemed like a pipe dream, and we just sort of made it happen."

"Anything really is possible.... If you're scared, you're probably on the right track."

Departures follows the travels of Brantford-born best friends Scott Wilson and Justin Lukach and cameraman Andrew Dupuis through the most beautiful and dangerous places on the globe, documenting their personal experiences along the way.

The show airs on OLN Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

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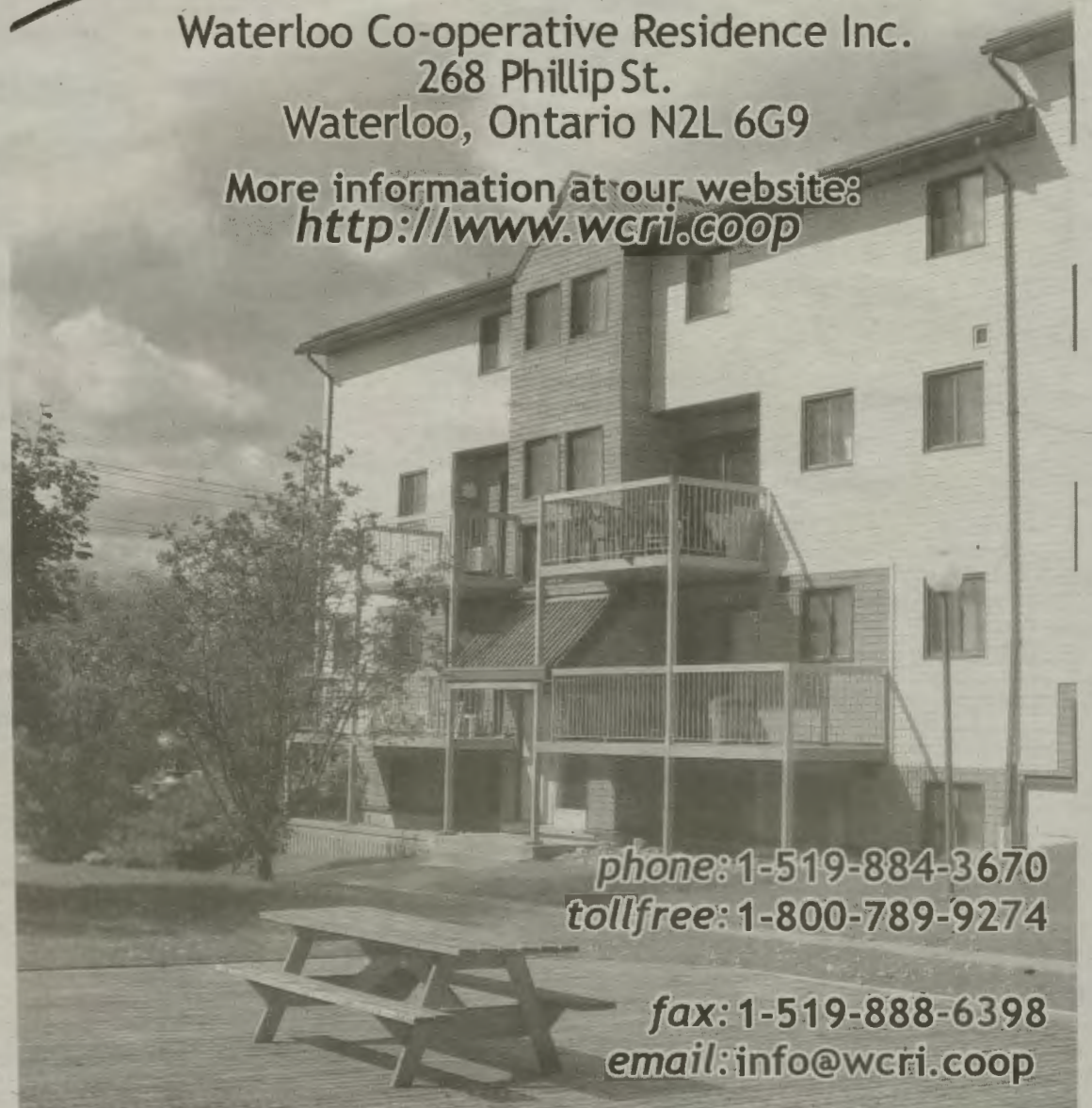
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Navigating the city's arts scene

So you've just arrived in what will be your home for the next year, what now? To help you dabble in the rich cultural environment that is Waterloo, *The Cord* has compiled a list of some of the unique venues the city has to offer

Generation X Video

10 Regina St. N.



Feel like staying in and watching a movie? Gen X is the movie-rental store that will suit all your needs, whoever you are. Offering an incredibly diverse selection of foreign films, indie films and almost any film you could want to watch, Gen X is the place to go. What's more, students can purchase a \$20 membership and rent movies for three dollars for the semester.

Princess Cinemas

46 King St. N. and 6 Princess St. W.



Featuring a variety of films that aren't offered at bigger cinemas, as well as screenings of older classics and foreign films, Princess Twin and its sister-venue Princess Cinema will probably be your best discovery this year. And if you want a delicious bite to eat or just a really good coffee, make sure to stop by the Princess Café, right next to Princess Twin.

The Button Factory

25 Regina St. S.



If you're interested in theatre and dance performances, fine art and photography exhibitions and a forum in which to enjoy literature, the Waterloo Community Arts Centre (WCAC) is the perfect place for you. The WCAC, a 19th century heritage site formerly home to a button factory, is a volunteer-run organization which strives to promote arts in the region. Along with its diverse events, the WCAC offers the unique opportunity to attend a variety of lessons and workshops centering on the arts for fees as low as \$2.

Maxwell's Music House

200 King St. N.



Started by Laurier business-administration graduate Paul Maxwell, Maxwell's Music House provides a laid back atmosphere for musicians and music-lovers alike. Along with music lessons offered for a variety of instruments as well as six jam spaces, Maxwell's hosts musical performances almost every day of the week, and is less than five minutes from campus.

Starlight

47 King St. N.



Starlight is an overall crowd-pleaser for students in Waterloo. If you love dancing the night away or seeing musicians perform with drinks in hand, Starlight is the place for you. Featuring big-name musicians this semester like Dragonette and Most Serene Republic, Starlight also hosts theme nights like "Retro Prom" and "80s night" as well as weekly fixtures like "Global Warming" on Friday nights, a no-cover event with amazing techno and alternative music.

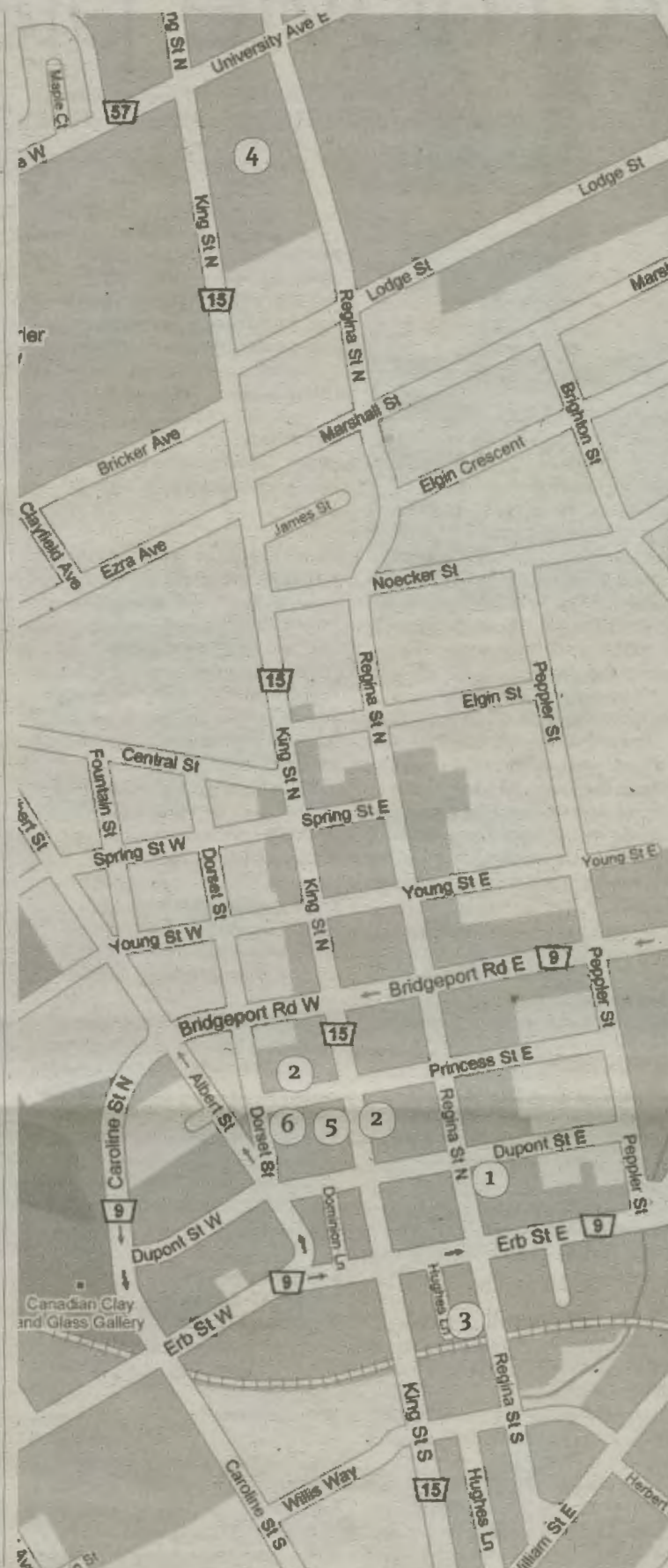
The Jane Bond

5 Princess St. W.



Starlight's sister-venue The Jane Bond is like the relaxed, smaller version of Starlight. This lounge is a great place to enjoy drinks with friends and watch small, intimate performances of local musicians. It also features one of the most unique decors of any venue in Waterloo and regularly showcases the work of local artists.

— Compiled by Rebecca Vasluianu, photos by Nick Lachance



GOOGLE MAPS

While you were out...

Memorable moments at the region's hottest summer festivals

Hillside Festival

Jul. 24 - 26 at Guelph Lake Island



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Final Fantasy performing in a thunderstorm.

Cutting Edge Music Festival

Aug. 1 - 3 at Bingeman's



RILEY TAYLOR CORD PHOTOGRAPHER
Hip-hop artist Roots takes the stage.

“

On the last day, I was like, 'hey man' and he said 'hey.' He's super tired I guess.

— Tokyo Police Club frontman David Monks on meeting Rivers Cuomo from Weezer

“

I remember wandering through the campground looking for some place to throw up. I think it was a lot of fun, I just can't recall.

— Rody Walker, vocalist of Protest the Hero on his festival experience

Your first week: A movie playlist

Whether you're a first-year or returning student, watch these films to get yourself back into the groove of school



WADE THOMPSON
THE REEL WORLD

It's time to drop your worn-out copies of *Twilight* and forget any memory that you may still have left of *Transformers 2* because ladies and gents, it is the first week of school.

That's right. There will be no more "chillaxin'" around the pool under whatever rays of sun you were able to muster this summer.

It's time to get your act together and start your first week at Laurier.

"But how do I simply ease my way back in?" you ask. "How can I make it through the stress and horror that is the first week of school?"

Well, fear not faithful companions. I am here to help you through this in the only way I know how: by recommending movies.

Yes people, I have compiled the ultimate film playlist that will help you make your way through your first week back at school and allow you to forget about any stress that you may have been harboring about the upcoming weeks.

Follow these guidelines, and you will be all the way into the second and third week of school completely unaware that summer ever ended.

Day 1: Pure, unadulterated entertainment

Watch: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Back to the Future*, *Ghostbusters*

So where to begin? Well, as with any good playlist, you need to start with something that makes you feel wonderful.

You need something that kicks you into gear and just develops an undeniable sense of happiness.

If for just a second you find yourself doubting that any of these movies are for you, I want you to stop, look in the mirror, and seriously reconsider, because these are the best of the best.

Day 2: Reminder of your current state of mind

Watch: *St Elmo's Fire*, *The Secret to My Success*, *Dazed and Confused*, *Wet*, *Hot American Summer*

You need to follow your first amazing day at Laurier with something that

reminds you of how much you enjoyed your summer and your friends.

You need something that provides a reality check regarding where you are in the state of the world around you.

These films should help conjure up that right amount of nostalgia.

Day 3: Heavy

Watch: *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Zodiac*, *Taxi Driver*, *Rashomon*, *The Night of the Hunter*

Eventually, all the light hearted stuff you've been watching will get to be too misleading, so your next step is to pop in something that is disturbing, powerful and terrifying all at once.

These haunting films will make sure that you remember how human you are, remember that life is in fact hard and you sometimes need to deal with that.

These films will make you appreciate your life a little bit more, all the while providing some first rate filmmaking.

Day 4: Inspirational

Watch: *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Dead Poet's Society*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *12 Angry Men*, *American Beauty*, *City of God*

You could probably use a little bit of inspiration by this point in the week.

Bittersweet storytelling at its absolute best, these films will help get you through your day, all while sticking with you for the rest of your days.

Whenever you're looking for that motivating, insightful push to get you through life, look no further than these films.

Day 5: Fun, Fun, Fun ('Til your daddy takes the T-Bird away)

Recommended: *Die Hard*, *Lethal Weapon*, *Bring It On*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Grease*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors*

With plans for what I can only expect will be an epic first weekend at school, you need to fade into the weekend with a film that is utter fun and nothing else.

Whether this is a simple action-flick or glamorous musical, you need something that is going to raise your spirits and keep that high going into your weekend.

Once finished with these films, your body clock should be adjusted and any overwhelming feelings of stress should be blown away in the cool breeze that was your opening week of movie watching.

Even if it didn't work completely, I do hope that you discovered a film or two that you were able to watch and appreciate.

Have a good first week.

Sudoku solution Puzzle on page 35

4	3	9	8	7	5	6	2	1
8	2	5	6	1	3	7	9	4
6	7	1	2	9	4	3	5	8
9	1	7	3	5	8	4	6	2
3	5	6	4	2	7	8	1	9
2	4	8	1	6	9	5	3	7
7	8	2	5	3	1	9	4	6
5	6	4	9	8	2	1	7	3
1	9	3	7	4	6	2	8	5

O-Week campus shows

Inward Eye, Marianas Trench, and Tyler Schwende
Tuesday, Sept. 8 (The Turret)

Metric
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8 p.m.
(The Athletic Complex)



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In review

The Polaris Music Prize shortlist

Read *The Cord* in the upcoming weeks for a panel discussion and live coverage of the prize's unveiling

REBECCA VASLUIANU

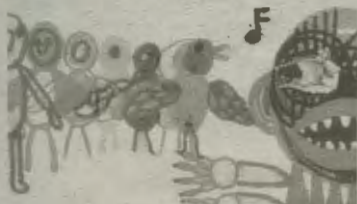
ARTS EDITOR

It's that time of the year. In less than two weeks, the winner of the Polaris Music Prize for excellence in Canadian music will be announced at Toronto's Masonic Temple on September 21. The award, which was established in 2006, has seen winners Final Fantasy, Patrick Watson and Caribou claim the \$20,000 grand prize. To help guide you through the 10 nominated albums, here's a critical review of each musical offering.

Chad VanGalen – *Soft Airplanes*

★★★★

CHADVANGALEN - SOFT AIRPLANES



Soft Airplanes is a truly standout album on the Polaris shortlist. Combining strange, reverberating vocals with a lush backdrop of lulling acoustic guitar and instruments ranging from synth to trumpet, Chad VanGalen has managed to create an album that is soulful, sweet and undeniably bizarre.

On the first track, VanGalen shows his diverse vocal talent with the song "Bones of Man", using a rougher sound to complement the cool, mellow guitar and retro sound.

Throughout the album, the Albertan singer continues to show his versatility, producing "TMNT Mask", a catchy synth-centred song reminiscent of 80s' techno; following it with "Molten Light", a disturbing acoustic tune like a lush version of Devendra Banhart.

While the album ends on a strange, note – with "Frozen Energon", a song that is quite frankly creepy – *Soft Airplanes* produces many memorable songs, with its eclectic instrumental palette and VanGalen's ringing vocals.

Listen to: "Bones of Man", "TMNT Mask", "Rabid Bits of Time"

Elliot Brood – *Mountain Meadows*

★★★★



Alternative country band Elliot Brood, with Bryan Adams reminiscent vocals and seamless combination of banjo and guitar, have given their second full-length album all the right sound but not enough power.

Listening to the album, the word "nice" comes to mind for almost every song, with only few songs managing to be memorable.

"Write it all down for You" and "Without Again" give the album a needed thrust of upbeat energy and movement. Songs like "31 Years" and "Notes" are like country lullabies accompanied by vocalist Mark Sasso's soothing, sombre voice.

Overall, the album drags on too long with unnecessary tracks like "The Spring Floods" and "Chuckwagon", two primarily instrumental tracks full

of stomping and clanging that interrupt the flow of the album.

"The Body" – which has the potential to be the best song on the album – transforms halfway through into a female vocalist humming to what sounds like cars driving through a tunnel.

While the band's back-road, rolling sound has the potential to make a great album, *Mountain Meadows* is a convoluted mess with great songs somewhere in the middle.

Listen to: "Without Again", "Notes", "31 years"

Fucked Up – *The Chemistry of Common Life*

★★★★

THE CHEMISTRY OF COMMON LIFE - FUCKED UP



Fucked Up's second full-length album *The Chemistry of Common Life* packs in quite a punch. But while its rough growling vocals and layered ringing guitar-work have all the ingredients to make it a standout post-hardcore album, it falls short.

Often, the overbearing vocals clash with the harmonic, clanging guitars, overwhelming them completely and creating an imbalance that is unpleasant to listen to.

While spacey songs reminiscent of Red Sparowes like "Golden Seal" and "Looking for God" give the album a well needed mellow-down, the rest of the album is peppered with mish-mash tracks that seem to drown themselves in noise like "Magic Word" and "Twice Born".

Songs like "Royal Swan" and "Black Albino Bones" do offer nice melodic vocal lines mixed in with the overbearing harsh vocals – but not enough to redeem the rest of the album.

Listen to: "Royal Swan", "Looking for God", "Days of Last"

Great Lake Swimmers – *Lost Channels*

★★★★



Lost Channels, Great Lake Swimmers' fourth full-length album, is a quintessential Canadian folk album, albeit lacking the quality vocals and variety to make it a good one.

When listening to Great Lake Swimmers' latest musical offering, one phrase came to mind – do not listen to while operating heavy machinery.

In particular, songs like "Concrete Heart" and "Stealing Tomorrow" leave one wondering where three minutes of his or her life went, with no memorable quality or excitement to help get through their duration.

While gentle, stumbling folk tunes can be enjoyable, Great Lake Swimmers takes this to a new level, coupling catatonic too-soft vocals with repetitive guitar and country twang. "Pulling on a Line", "Still" and "River's Edge" offer relief from the mundane nature of *Lost Channels*, providing the

kind of folk song one could remember and sing along to.

But overall, the album muffles itself with its own soft acoustic guitar and dull vocals, leaving it perfectly forgettable.

Listen to: "Pulling on a Line", "Still", "River's Edge"

Hey Rosetta! – *Into Your Lungs*

★★★★



Into Your Lungs is an album full of surprises. Each song transforms and grows with crescendos, decrescendos and drastic tempo changes, stunning you with the end result.

While each song is over four minutes long, Hey Rosetta! utilizes the album's duration wisely with impressive instrumental arrangements and powerful vocals that shrink and grow to fill the time.

"Tired Eyes", for instance, one of the best songs on the album, begins with faded piano chords accompanied by emotional vocals, which reach their pinnacle when vocalist Tim Baker delivers a truly touching and strong display of his seasoned pipes.

A funky baseline and sunny guitars then creep in and the song gains energy with ringing violin. Songs like "I've Been Asleep For a Long, Long Time" also show the lyrical talent of Hey Rosetta!, with lyrics that are nothing short of absolutely charming.

While not every song packs the same poignant power of "We Made a Pact" or "Black Heart", the album is solid from start to finish, making it a strong second album for the Newfoundland-based band.

Listen to: "I've Been Asleep for a Long, Long Time", "We Made a Pact", "Black Heart"

Joel Plaskett – *Three*

★★★★



If you have better things to do, I suggest not listening to Joel Plaskett's new album *Three*. Jamming in over 100 minutes of music into three albums, Plaskett has managed to create an epic release that quite frankly was not necessary.

While many songs stand out as good tracks, most on the three discs fall into the realm of repetitive country/folk music.

Disc one is evidently the strongest of the three, with songs like Plaskett's catchy single "Through & Through" and the winding, deep sound of "Drifters Raus".

Mellowing out completely, disc two starts off with "Safe in Your Arms", a relaxed, soft song with gentle duet vocals. The second disc continues on that theme, using light East coast sounds in "Sailor Eyes" and acoustic country guitar in songs like "Down, Down, Down."

Resolving the difference between disc one and two is disc three, acting

as a middle ground between the two, incorporating the catchy, percussive heavy track "Rewind, Rewind, Rewind" and softer songs like "Lazy Bones".

Finishing off the album is aptly named "On & On & On", summarizing the release's inherent problem.

While nobody's denying Plaskett has enough vocal dexterity, song-writing talent and versatile guitar skills to carry a superb album, he does not do it with *Three*.

Listen to: "Through & Through & Through", "Sailor Eyes", "Precious, Precious, Precious"

K'naan – *Troubadour*

★★★★



Choosing just one thing about this album that stands out above the rest is impossible; K'naan has managed to create a musical offering that is enjoyable from start to finish.

Combining rap, pop and even rock, K'naan uses his poetic talent to tell us stories about life in his native Somalia, painting pictures that are unforgettable.

"And when I try to sleep I see coffins closing," he raps in the haunting song "Somalia," letting us peer into the experiences of those living in war-torn African countries – in perfect musical style.

In fact, the album doesn't miss a beat, although the second half after the sweet, inspiring track "Wavin' Flag" is definitely stronger.

The album ranges from catchy and funky tunes like "Bang Bang" and "ABCs" to those that will just etch themselves into your mind like "Take a Minute."

Troubadour, with its storytelling style and ability to make hip-hop approachable to even the most weary listener, makes you want to listen to the album again and again.

Listen to: "Take a Minute", "Dreamer", "Wavin' Flag"

Malajube – *Labyrinthes*

★★★★



With the release of Malajube's engaging album *Trompe-l'œil* in 2006 (which was shortlisted for Polaris as well), expectations were high for the band's newest offering *Labyrinthes*.

But while Malajube's layered French vocals are as beautifully lulling as ever, still managing to create a charming album, *Labyrinthes* ultimately dies away into the forgettable.

While *Trompe-l'œil* had standout hits like high-energy "Fille à plumes" and soft "Casse-cou", *Labyrinthes* is missing any such tracks.

The eclectic album features a variety of enjoyable songs ranging from the likeable elevator music of "Casa blanca" to the cool evil-sounding tune "Cristobald" and the diverse range of sounds found in "333" to the lulling,

smooth up-and-down scales of "Hérésie".

Ultimately, *Labyrinthes* has no "je ne sais quoi" to make it memorable beyond the French rockers' unique sound.

Listen to: "Porté disparu", "333", "Hérésie"

Metric – *Fantasies*

★★★★



Metric's fourth full-length album *Fantasies* shows a different side of the alternative musicians – lighter and more mature.

A huge departure from previous songs like "Monster Hospital" and "Dead Disco", which packed more punch, energy and groove, *Fantasies* is a mellowed-out, romantic version of Metric that is a welcome change.

While the album holds some catchy tunes like "Help, I'm Alive" and "Gimme Sympathy", *Fantasies* also offers softer, more subdued songs like "Twilight Galaxy" and "Blindness" that highlight Emily Haines' infectious voice with a more synth-centred sound and starry-eyed lyrics.

While die-hard Metric fans might find themselves disappointed with *Fantasies* – comparing it to the group's more varied Polaris short-listed 2005 album *Live It Out* – the new release is a tender and soulful offering that is sure to top your 2009 playlist.

Listen to: "Blindness", "Collect Call", "Gimme Sympathy"

Patrick Watson – *Wooden Arms*

★★★★



It's obvious that Patrick Watson, previous Polaris winner in 2007 with *Close to Paradise*, isn't fooling around.

His new album *Wooden Arms* shows that he's creating music more unique than ever. Tranquil and powerful from the start, *Wooden Arms* peaks early with the harp-filled, light track "Fireweed" and the album's best song "Beijing", which uses expertly crafted movement and growth to create a powerful piece that at times makes you feel like there's a full-size orchestra in the room with you.

By peppering the album with unique, haunting songs like the creepy organ-grinder tune "Traveling Salesman" and the strange, depressing piano groove of "Down at the Beach", Watson manages to make even the strangest crash-and-bangs beautiful.

But while Watson's chilling voice and heavy arrangements speak to his immense musicality, the album at times borders on dense and is hard to enjoy all at once because of each song's complexity.

Listen to: "Beijing", "Bird in a Small Cage", "Where the Wild Things Are"

LIFE

Life Editor Dave Shore • dshore@thecord.ca

Cord-o-scopes

Virgo Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

m To gain favour with your professors and peers, you should attempt to answer every question raised in class whether or not you know the answer..., or just ask seemingly irrelevant questions instead. They'll love that.

Libra Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

Ω Despite what your friends tell you, there is no Laurier nudist club. So for everyone's sake, keep your damn clothes on.

Scorpio Oct. 22 to Nov. 21

m You will start reading Marx in one of your classes. I don't care what program or year you're in, it's going to happen.

Sagittarius Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

✈ Remember that nobody walks on the hawk! Unless the hallway is packed, which it almost always is. Or if you're not paying attention. Or if you just don't feel like getting out of the way. Remember that people only walk on the hawk some of the time!

Capricorn Dec. 22 to Jan. 19

♑ You will fall madly in love with "Judy" the sandwich lady at the dining hall after her roast beef on rye rocks your world.

Aquarius Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

♒ After a friend introduces you to World of Warcraft, you'll spend weeks alone in your room, only to eventually emerge reborn as Gorklock, a magical elf destined to save Laurier from its evil overlords.

Pisces Feb. 19 to March 20

✕ In a moment of passion you'll decide to renounce your consumerist ways by flushing all of your frivolous possessions down the toilet. However, after sobering up you'll soon realize that life is unbearable without an iPod and Blackberry. Also, your toilet's broken.

Aries March 21 to April 19

♈ It's probably best to remember that the rhyme, "Beer before liquor, you've never been sicker" is a warning, not a challenge.

Taurus April 20 to May 20

♉ The stars show that soon all your dreams will come true. Unfortunately, all you've been dreaming about recently is athlete's foot and the end of the world.

Gemini May 21 to June 20

♊ Try to remember that it's only acceptable to run down the street dressed in fluorescent spandex screaming at everyone you see if you're actually participating in O-Week activities. Otherwise you're just a weirdo. Scratch that, it's never acceptable.

Cancer June 21 to July 22

♋ When an attractive person in your class asks you what your major is, it's in your best interest to take the high road and avoid referencing your genitalia.

Leo July 23 to Aug. 22

♌ You will be in awe of nature when you get to witness the majestic glory of Laurier's elusive music students outside their natural habitat of the Aird building, scavenging for woodwinds in preparation for a long winter.

As a small boy, Adam Nagel choked after swallowing the wheel of a Tonka truck; this near death experience gave him the power to see into the void and predict the future.

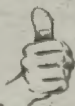
Wisdom disconnect: The week in pointless info

LAURA SEDGWICK
CORD LIFE

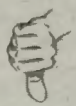
Long shot: The standard golf course now has 18 holes. In the past this wasn't the case: all golf courses had a different number of holes. It wasn't until St. Andrews Old Course laid out nine holes one way on a green and nine holes in the opposite direction that golf courses sported 18 holes (this also explains why the first nine holes have a different coloured flag than the second nine holes). This was adopted by other golf courses and eventually became the norm. Another theory as to why golf courses have eighteen holes is that there are eighteen shots in a bottle of whisky.

Are roses red? Most people have three types of colour cone cells in their eyes. This gives us trichromatic vision. There are, however rare, some people who have a fourth type of cone cell. This results in the ability to see a fourth primary colour. Thus, people with a fourth cone can see many more colours than those of us with only three cones. This is known as tetrachromatic vision, which most birds have.

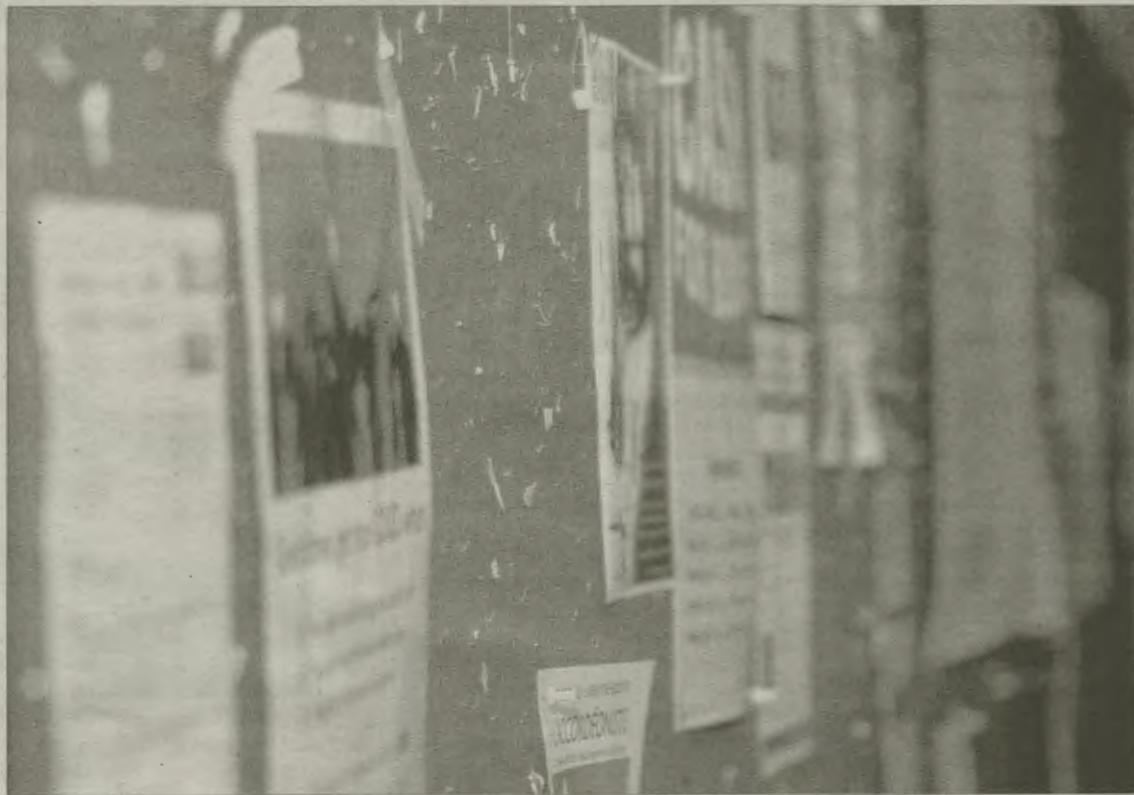
thumbs up/ thumbs down



Students finally returning to Waterloo after a long summer.



Students returning and then running around and cheering like morons.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Bulletin boards around campus are a crucial way to find groups and events to suit your interests.

What's the point? Getting involved

A Cord Life debate on whether or not students need to "get involved" to have the full Laurier experience

DAVE SHORE
LIFE EDITOR

Pro

If it didn't already weigh heavily in your choice to attend this institution, you're going to learn very quickly that Laurier has a culture very different from other universities.

We've consistently placed first in every Canadian university ranking for "volunteerism" and "student engagement". Essentially, Laurier is a place where students don't just go to class; they get involved.

Right from the get-go you'll be told by numerous people that in order to get the most out of your time at university, you absolutely have to "get involved." Then you'll go to a get involved fair where you'll be shown the countless ways in which you can "get involved." Yet, despite all this, you probably will still have no fucking clue what "getting involved" actually entails.

LAURA SEDGWICK
CORD LIFE

Con

It's easy to tell someone that they should get involved at university. After all, university is a place for learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. However, if there's one thing I've learned at university, it's that there is rarely only one right way to do something.

This alone refutes the idea that "everybody needs to be in at least one student group in order to get the full university experience," as there is no one way to get the "full university experience."

Of course, with that said, it is true that being an active member of student groups adds to one's experience at university. This is especially true at Laurier, where there are so many things to get involved with.

Quite simply, all you have to do to "get involved" is join and participate in at least one student group. And, while I hate to say it, the incessant army of school-spirited weirdos at this school is right when they happily exclaim, "There's something for everyone!"

It's true though. Unlike high school where if you didn't like one of the six clubs and eight sports teams, you were pretty much left with smoking weed behind the portables, there's actually a ton of stuff to do at Laurier. From volunteering around the community to student governance to special interest groups, if you can't find at least one club that coincides with a part of your personality, then you officially don't have a personality.

Don't be discouraged if it takes a while (maybe even a couple years in school) to find a club that really fits with you.

WLUSU will try to tell you that "there's something for everybody" within the services that they offer: this is just false. While tons of people will love what WLUSU has going on,

others will want to steer clear of them entirely.

Luckily, there's tons of other, more varied organizations around campus.

They just take a little bit of finding. Don't be afraid to take an active part in searching out student groups to join; most of them will be thrilled to let you join in on meetings or events.

This isn't to say that everyone gets involved in a student group. Many prefer to focus solely on academics. Others get part-time jobs or participate in other activities around the city. And while there's nothing wrong with this, these people just aren't getting the full university experience, or at least the full Laurier experience.

Ultimately, student groups are, shockingly, comprised of other students. They are the most foolproof way to meet like-minded people. They act as the gateway to study buddies, party invites and significant friendships.

Getting involved is quite easy, and without doing so your time at university will be much less exciting.

If you care about the environment, you can apply for Ecohawks; if you want a close knit group of friends, you can rush a fraternity or sorority and if you like dragon boating, you can join the WLU Dragon Boat Club.

Joining student groups is a great way to do what you enjoy while simultaneously meeting like-minded individuals, making great friends and learning about your university. However, student groups aren't the only way to get these experiences.

There are many off-campus organizations where similar benefits present themselves. These include volunteering at St. John's Ambulance, Registry Theatre or Extend-A-Family. Additionally, joining off-campus groups allows one to expand beyond the infamous "Laurier bubble" and into the "real world."

If this doesn't pique your interest, other alternatives to student groups including focusing on academics,

working out at the gym or having a part-time job.

These options achieve additional benefits beyond that of most student groups, namely, keeping up with your course work, staying fit and making a bit of extra cash.

The simple truth is that, while student groups can be both fun and valuable, all of the benefits they offer can also be found in other places. There is no rule dictating that students need to join groups of any nature. At the end of the day, it is up to you as a student to define what your own university experience should be, whether it be through student groups or your preferred alternatives.

These alternatives contribute to the "fullness" of one's university experience in the same way that joining student groups does. You can have a fulfilling university experience doing whatever it is that you enjoy. Just remember, you get out of university what you put into it.

Drinking days

Sept. 9

It's 09-09-09! That only happens, like, once every century! And unless you plan to be around for 2109, you'd best not miss the opportunity to get plastered. Drink nine beers while playing "Revolution 9" on repeat.

Sept. 14

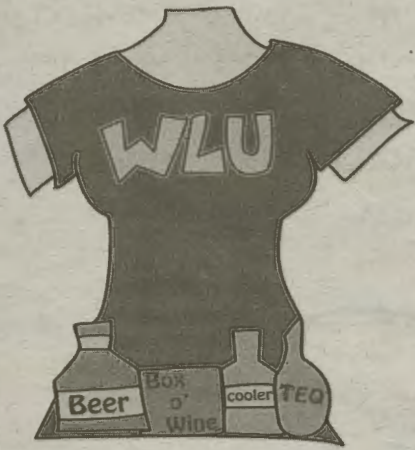
The 14th is the first day of classes. If you're an academic type, celebrate the beginning of another year of trying to impress your professors. If you're not, just drink to drown away your anxiety for the months ahead.

Sept. 21

The 21st is the United Nations' International Day of Peace, a global holiday aimed at ending violence worldwide. Drink some booze from every continent and share your love of peace with your neighbour.

Sept. 28

World Rabies Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the disease. Rabies is a fatal disease that kills people every year despite being entirely preventable. But you won't be thinking about that. You'll be sloshed.



The Sauce

JEREMY TREMBLAY
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Now that you're at university, you may find that you're overwhelmed with choice and responsibility.

One of these choices is what to drink at night, which may be especially difficult now that you're too old for coolers. (Actually, you've probably been too old to drink coolers for a while now, but never mind.) If you find yourself hard pressed for ideas, here's a different way to get smashed for every day of the week.

Monday: James Ready 5.5
For a dollar a can, you can easily afford James Ready. At first it might taste like horse piss, but it's not so bad that you won't want to stop drinking after the first can.

Tuesday: Tequila
Concerned about midweek drinking? It's never a problem if you're celebrating something. Grab some tequila and drink to the occasion. Go ahead – any brand will do.

Wednesday: Boxes of wine
For about \$35 you can get 4 litres of wine – more than enough for a few nights or a few people. Be sure to get

white unless purple teeth, lips and tongue sound like fun.

Thursday: Old English
The guys in high school were on to something. It may taste awful, but Old English and other 40s of malt liquor are dirt cheap. You're going to end up embarrassing yourself while drinking anyway – wouldn't you rather remember why?

Friday: Phil's
Don your grossest shoes and head out for a night of drinks – almost everything is \$2.25 before tip. Even if going out is still more expensive than staying in and drinking, at least you won't feel like you're being robbed.

Saturday: Kings
Though not a drink, Kings may soon be one of your closest friends on the road to drunkenness. While using a road metaphor in relation to drinking may be in poor taste, it should be said that Kings is really more of an express highway to drunk than a mere road.

Sunday: Vodka water
As long as you have a tap, you still have mix and one less excuse to stop drinking. On the bright side, you won't even notice the aftertaste after a glass or two.

10 Laurier survival tips

Lessons that incoming first years students should learn

KATIE FLOOD
STAFF WRITER
ASHLEY KOEN
CORD LIFE

Coming into Laurier can be an overwhelming experience. The jump from high school to university involves learning many small lessons, from how to manage your own money to how to do a proper tequila shot. With all the hard work coming your way, The Cord has taken it upon itself to teach incoming students 10 lessons that you won't have to learn the hard way.

1. Know the best campus hangouts.
This is crucial for the times when you feel like escaping from your spacious dorm room and socializing, or heaven forbid, studying. You will need to know where to see and be seen.
The concourse: The place to be for casual hang out time, group projects or just watching the whole school walk by.
The 24-hour lounge: Dungeons and Dragons anyone?
The library: Not to be used for casual conversation, except maybe the 3rd to 5th floors.
The atrium: Elite business student hangout.
The dining hall: Jock and first-year central.
The common room of your residence: It is possible to never leave.

2. The Laurier fashion protocol. It is really not okay to join the ranks of those wearing torn jean skirts and UGG boots mid-September through winter finals. It is, apparently, socially acceptable to wear your sweats to class and back (and everywhere in between), but be aware that there will always be that one classmate with straightened hair and fresh makeup at 8:00 a.m. One thing I can guarantee,

anything from Aritzia will be spotted once, twice, three times.

3. Learn the go-to hangover breakfast location. Depending on the location of your residence, you have Benny's – amazingly inexpensive and on your OneCard, or Mel's Diner, which happens to be open later than the bars. The social aspect of the morning-after breakfast is key; this is where true friendships are made.

4. Master the fake I.D. Now, I'm not condoning underage activity, but if you are part of the lucky few who have one, know where to use it. This does not include campus facilities, as OneCards are mandatory supplementary material. However, there are some bars around town that are easier to get into than others.

5. Go OneCard crazy. Yes, this is real money, but due to new regulations if you are left with more than \$500 at the end of a school year the university keeps it. So spend up! Granted, this is terrible financial advice, but you aren't given much choice. If you happen to have a convenience account, the best off-campus OneCard vendors include Waterloo Taxi, Pizza Pizza, Noodle Hut, Swiss Chalet delivery and University Pharmacy (use your imagination).

6. Work smart, not hard. Take the time to ask your professor what they expect in an assignment. Chances are they have used this assignment before and have a good idea of what they do, and do not want. Asking ahead of time can save you plenty of time and effort. You should also take advantage of additional resources such as teaching assistants (TA), the Writing Centre and upper-year students.

7. K.Y.S.F. (Know Your Short Forms)
At Laurier, if you don't already know where the DAWB, the AC, the DH, the FNCC and (for you music students) the MOFO are – you're lost. If you don't know what ERT, BACCHUS, and the SLC are – you need to attend the get involved fair. If you have no idea what I'm saying at all, you're new. Take some initiative and go find out what these things are. They're a valuable part of the Laurier lingo.

8. Abuse your student status. Your tuition bill comes in every year at the end of the summer and ta-dah, you're broke. So make the most of student bargains. Your OneCard acts as a bus pass, which equals free transportation. Restaurants around town are also there to help out with student specials such as Symposium's "starving student night" every Monday.

9. Talk about class way too much. Pff – that's lame, right? Nobody wants to hear about how much you love 18th century English literature during a party. Well, maybe, but talking about what you're studying isn't just the best way to hammer it into your brain. You'll also meet people studying the same stuff, and maybe even start enjoying your education a whole lot more. You're in school to learn, so go ahead and enjoy it.

10. Screw up your sleep schedule.
Students operate on a completely different sleep schedule than the rest of society. Even when you have class at 8:30 a.m. it's not unusual to be expected to stay up until 2 or 3 a.m. Train your body early on to operate on very little sleep and to be able to stay up for long intervals without shuteye, lest you miss out on some of the best social and study times.

Navigating your O-Week

Laurier's orientation offerings

JACLYN STEIF
STAFF WRITER

Sept. 7 begins another year at Wilfrid Laurier University and, for all the incoming first-year students, the start of an entirely new lifestyle. To help new student transition to university life, Laurier offers a number of orientation activities.

WLUSU's traditional O-Week

Date: Sept. 7-12
Host: A university orientation week organized by the Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU).
Who: All first-year students are divided into four colour teams: blue, gold, green and red. Two residence floors or a floor and a Laurier Off Campus University Students (LOCUS) group are paired together.
Details: Four teams compete against one another in events such as a talent show, game show, cheer-off, regatta games and Shinerama's "bling-bling" event. The team with the most points at the end of the week wins.

Highlights: Academic sessions, day at Bingeman's amusement park, a movie night on Alumni Field, the Get Involved Fair, Shine Day, music concert and an on-campus party.

Reason to attend: Gives first-years the opportunity to meet people on their floor and others as well as a few upper year student ice breakers.

"It's important [for students] to find their fit. We work to find activities to appeal to all audiences" – Burton Lee, assistant vice-president of first year experience for WLUSU

LSPIRG's Complementary O-Week

Date: Sept. 7-12
What: Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group (LSPIRG) offers a complementary orientation week to coexist with WLUSU's.
Who: Open to all incoming students, regardless of whether or not they registered for WLUSU's traditional events.
Details: A collaborative and community-based set of events designed to help students discover the KW community and promote activism and social justice.



RYAN STEWART FILE PHOTO

First-year students pose for a picture at their carwash station at the annual "Shine Day" event.

Highlights: Travelling cafés, working group fair, an opportunity to practice with Laurier's Radical Choir and watch them perform, an exploration of Waterloo Park, an open space event (students bring items and do as they wish with them), a photo scavenger hunt, movie night and "Jammin' for Social Change" at Maxwell's Music House.

Reason to attend: Provides an opportunity for students to meet other students interested in social justice and attend activities aside from WLUSU's O-Week.

"It's free and provides more accessibility. It allows you to get involved in important issues." – Jeff Kitchen, Complementary O-Week Co-ordinator

SBE O-Day

Date: Sept. 13
What: The school of business and economics students' society (SBESS)
Who: For all first-year business and economics students

Details: Luncheon will be held at the Waterloo Inn with tables being mixed to include upper-year SBE students, corporate sponsors and faculty members.

Highlights: Keynote speaker Cam Heaps, co-founder and president of Steam Whistle Breweries; SBE student-run clubs and events will be present to inform students what they have to offer them.

Reason to attend: Familiarizes first-year business and economics students with Laurier, the SBE faculty, classrooms and their program.

"The purpose is to give [SBE students] an opportunity to meet other people in the program and get to know the faculty as well" – Shane McTavish, vice-president of academic affairs, SBE Students' Society

IO-Week

Date: Aug. 31- Sept. 4
What: International Orientation Week
Who: For all incoming international and exchange students

Details: Students stayed in various residences and attended workshops on topics such as what Laurier has to offer, culture shock, differences in Canadian academics, housing, employment and safety

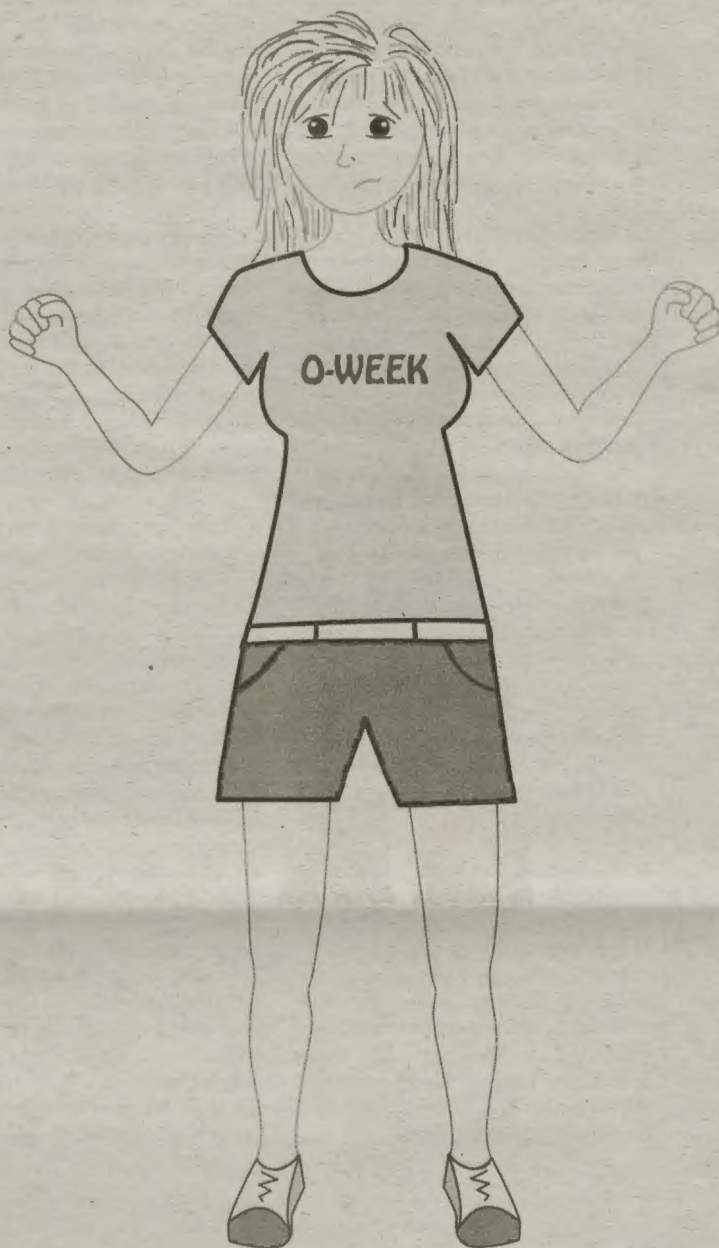
Highlights: Welcome barbecue for friends, campus tours, a lecture about Canadian culture from a Laurier professor, a trip to Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake, a meet and greet barbecue with the Laurier community and a six continents sports tournament.

Reason to attend: L.I.F.E. (Laurier International Friendship Exchange) mentors assist international students adapting to their new learning and living environment.

"[It allows students to] become familiar with Laurier as a community, setting students up for success." – Anna Done Choudhury, International Student Advisor

The evolution of Laurier O-Week

There are considerable differences in the Orientation Week experience as you journey through your years at Laurier. O-Week tends to be one of the best times of the year, regardless of what year you're about to embark on. When else is everyone free to indulge in life's simpler pleasures (like keg stands and body paint)? More importantly, when else can we enjoy these pleasures free from the guilt-tripping readings and assignments? So grab a beer - maybe a redbull or two - and enjoy. Features Editor **Shannon Busta** reports



First year: The "do we have to?" "Yes you do" year

You made it. You deserve a pat on the back for figuring out all that paperwork and those confusing online systems. You somehow managed to survive the several trips to Ikea and the endless advice from your family. Now you probably want to enjoy your new residence room and relax for a bit.

Unfortunately, you won't be able to, not for a while anyways.

The higher-ups at Laurier are under the impression that you came to university to meet people, be high on energy and develop an unbreakable, life-long bond with the Hawk. So with that in mind, they put together this little thing called Orientation Week, just for you. Think of it as the first step in becoming a dedicated future alumni.

Oh you lucky freshmen.

This high-energy, event and information-rich week is specifically designed to force you into Laurier culture. So they give you your welcome package filled with an assortment of useful (and less-than useful) things, assign you a team colour and send you on your way.

One of the lovely items given to you will be your freshmen identification - the infamous O-Week T-shirt. This way everyone far and near will know you are new to campus. So kind of the university, isn't it?

These T-shirts are also designed to eliminate bashfulness and encourage a feeling of unity so you will have zero issues playing

icebreaking games till you break, or cheering until you're blue in the face.

It might be hard to believe, but nine times out of 10, those ridiculous T-shirts, with the help of your passionate and high-spirited Icebreakers, do the trick.

For reasons that have yet to be discovered, the wearing of the O-week T-shirt inspires bold and unusual behavior.

The O-Week mission statement reads, "Orientation Week provides the foundation where Laurier pride is born." At least they give you a heads-up.

By the end of the week you'll actually be enjoying that incessant cheering, the face paint and the "everyone wins" games.

I bet you end up loving O-Week, and Laurier, so much that you won't even mind making the very common mistake of hitting up the Laurier Bookstore at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Unless you read this article of course. Otherwise you'll be waiting for two hours in the overheated lineup to get your books. But it's all part of the O-Week experience, so enjoy it while you can.

It's easier if you just view it all as a necessary part of becoming a Hawk. Once you've participated in the high-energy, spirit-raising, friend-making week, you can finally enjoy the comparatively calm and somewhat drab nature of life on campus.

You will be missing O-Week even before it ends.



Second year: The "we're gonna rock this town" year

Congratulations. You've made it through the trials and tribulations of your first year. It's now been 12 months since you were coaxed into shedding some of your personal pride in exchange for pride of the school variety.

We all know you've gained enough knowledge over the last 12 months to get the most out of the valuable pre-class, pre-readings, pre-snow days on campus. Now you are ready and willing to go the distance for O-Week, whatever that means. I guess you'll know on Sunday, when the week is over.

I mean, yes, in many ways you are a wise and experienced O-weeker, crammed with experience and know-how and it is important that people recognize this. That being said, you are also new to the world of the off-campus O-Week. Meaning, this week is going to be filled with firsts.

At the very least, you're loaded with excitement and ready to show this town, and anyone else who will bear witness, exactly what you're made of. Regardless of your experience level.

So you bust out the collection of home-made funnels and drinking hats, throw on your subtle amounts of purple and gold (we don't want to look too silly now, do we?) and get mentally prepped for the best week of the fall semester.

Did I forget to mention you're probably going to be up at the crack of dawn at least once during the week to set up for your first pancake kegger in your brand new, 50-year-old, off-campus housing paradise?

Sure, it might look a little rough to the untrained eye, but to you, with your unwavering loyalty to the university lifestyle, it's perfect. Who wouldn't want to live in a house that looks identical before and after having a kegger?

After eight months in residence, it's time to welcome in the school year by throwing your decaying house a don-free party, all the while making a few dollars on the side. And what could possibly be the point of limiting your guests access to your house?

It's not a house warming pancake kegger if no one can get inside your beautiful new shack. Err, I mean, house. So you let them in, and let them have their way with the place. Probably not an issue since the damages caused might even add value to the house.

Of course you cannot be blamed for the lack of experience you have with Waterloo's over-eager, too friendly by-law enforcement officers who make regular house calls during O-Week, just to make sure you're settling in alright.

So what if you get ticketed for a noise violation or three? You can always eat Mr. Noodles for the rest of September, right? Besides, there is a very good chance that you will make enough money on your pancake kegger to pay off those silly tickets.

Your second encounter with O-Week is best looked upon as a learning experience. And after all, we are here to learn and become well rounded adults, right? O-Week is just a necessary step on the road to adulthood that conveniently doubles as the best party time of the year.



Third year: The "I know how to do this right" year

You made it to your third O-Week. Starting to feel like a Laurier veteran yet? You probably should. You understand many of the subtle intricacies needed to survive O-Week unscathed. This knowledge is valuable and should not be under-appreciated.

One problem you might not let on about is that you don't see yourself enjoying by-law drop-ins as much as you seemed to last year. That's okay, there's no shame in playing it safe. It is always nice to have grocery money for the month of September.

Remember, second year students are always around and happy to provide the sacrificial party houses each year. You learned your lesson; you gave back to the community, now it's their turn.

Just listen for the traditional "chug, chug, chug" and the classic "O-LAY, O-LAY, O-LAY, O-LAY" and make your way over for a morning, afternoon or evening of stress-free O-Week partying at someone else's house.

Another area of expertise: you now have the O-Week bar scene down to an art. And this is a great skill to have under your belt this early in the game. For instance: you know to hit up Phil's at 9:30 p.m. to get your stamp and then head back at 11:30 p.m. to skip the line after a serious pre-drink. Saving money and maximizing drinking time? I challenge you to find a better example of your education working for you in the real world.

As an older student, you also remember how much better the week was when MacDonnell's still existed, and remember what it was like to meet

friends for life in that lineup. Food is food, but that lineup was a destination, and Pizza Pizza just doesn't offer the same experience.

In addition to your bar-hopping skills, you've also come to understand the importance of the afternoon recovery nap.

Returning to classes last year was not a pleasant experience. An entire week of purple and gold, keg beer and sleepless nights followed by pancakes and all-day drink-a-thons tend to make the first Monday back less than enjoyable.

Now you know just how important the seemingly insignificant midday nap habit is.

Remember: giving yourself an hour to recoup each day does not make you any less of an O-Weeker! Smart partying is just as admirable as partying of the other variety.

Your experience has taught you that the nap will leave you miles ahead of the pack the first week back.

You'll be bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, your attentiveness will win over your professors and you will be in and out of the bookstore in good time because you won't need to sleep in until noon.

Most importantly, you will still be able to enjoy the second Wednesday back at Phil's. And as your experience will tell you, this is not a night to be missed.

Isn't life experience a grand thing?

Fourth year: The "lets do this one last time" year

If you felt like a veteran last year, you must feel like a super-veteran this year. That's right, a super-veteran.

Now you're looking for some serious recognition for the time you've put into making Laurier's last three O-Weeks memorable for all those involved. After all, you are a Hawk through and through now; you know what it means to bleed purple and gold and it is about time everyone realized it.

Plus, given some of the stunts that you've likely pulled over the last few years, you probably know what it's like to bleed more than just purple and gold for the sake of making O-Week memorable.

So you put some extra time into planning your week of debauchery. You bought extra amounts of purple and gold body paint, you hit Value Village weeks in advance to make sure you clear the racks of the most outrageous clothing and accessories available and you stock up on energy drinks, sunscreen, water, vitamins, keg beer, beer cups and anything else that might add balance to one of your last true weeks of university party chaos.

That's right, balance. Balance makes for a much safer and pleasant week of insanity, and you are not ashamed to admit this. You know what you're doing.

You're also probably in the book store before O-Week even starts so you can get some reading done ahead of time. Because well,

lets face it, this is your last O-Week: not even a mid-afternoon siesta could make the first week back to classes a pleasant experience.

Preparation now will help make up for the ridiculous and unavoidable amounts of procrastination that lie ahead of you.

In the end, the last O-Week is about slightly more than the partying, the bright colours and the rowdy socializing. It is the commemoration of your success as both a student and a Hawk.

You earned this week, and fourth year is no walk in the park, so you might as well get it all out of your system now. Enjoy it, and don't take any shit from by-law officers. Don't they know you're a senior?

And for all of you "super seniors" out there - we're talking you victory lappers, you fifth, sixth and seventh year O-Week demi-gods, (no, we have not forgotten about you).

Frankly, your accomplishments are simply too grand to cover in one measly feature article. Besides, few could possibly understand the scope of your O-Week experience, knowledge or understanding. So to you, we simply tip our hats and hope to catch a sighting or an infamous keg stand in the week to come.

Cheers Laurier.

Feel at home.



Welcome to Waterloo and Kitchener.

We're glad you have chosen to attend university in this community. It's a great place to live, with so much to see and do.

We want you to feel at home. So here's some information about our by-laws to help get you settled comfortably into life as a student.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Noise: | Making or permitting noise that is likely to disturb others is prohibited 24 hours a day, seven days a week. |
| Public nuisance: | Making a public nuisance is not permitted – this includes littering, spitting and urinating in public. |
| Parking: | Make sure you know when parking is restricted on City streets. Please see the appropriate website for specific information. |
| Fireworks: | There are regulations about where and when fireworks can be set off, and prohibiting certain types of fireworks. |
| Open fires: | A permit may be required from the Fire Department for open burning. |
| Barbecues on balconies: | Barbecues are not permitted on balconies of buildings that contain more than two living units. |

For more information about by-laws that are specific to the city in which you reside, go to the appropriate website.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Solution on page 28

Service

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Computer problems? Elusive messages or strange noises? Waterloo networks has fixed thousands of student computers for our famous flat rate of just \$65. We're right beside Quizno's. Come see us!
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The Cord is currently looking for sponsors to aid in sending staff to the Canadian University Press National Conference in Edmonton, AB., which costs approx. \$1,300 per delegate. Contact lcarlson@thecord.ca to donate.

Employment

SPECIAL NEEDS WORKER WANTED

Enthusiastic, responsible person to care for a 14 year old girl with C.P. Develop skills in augmentative communications, gross motor, feeding and personal care. A driver's license is needed to provide outings. After school, evenings and some weekend hours available for approx. 10 hours/week. \$12/hr. starting in September. Experience with children or any therapy an asset. Training provided. Columbia/Fischer-Hallman area. For more information call Pat at 519-747-9867. Please email resume to whiteside5@golden.net.

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Ontario Medical School Application Service
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October 1, 2009: Application deadline

www.ouac.on.ca/olsas/ OLSAS

Ontario Law School Application Service
November 2, 2009: Application deadline for first-year English programs
May 3, 2010: Application deadline for upper-year programs

TEAS www.ouac.on.ca/teas/

Teacher Education Application Service
December 1, 2009: Application deadline for English programs
March 1, 2010: Application deadline for French programs

www.ouac.on.ca/orpas/ ORPAS

Ontario Rehabilitation Sciences Programs Application Service
(Audiology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy/Physiotherapy, Speech-Language Pathology)
January 8, 2010: Application deadline

DearLIFE

Dear Life is your opportunity to write a letter to your life, allowing you to vent your anger with life's little frustrations in a completely public forum.

All submissions to Dear Life are anonymous, should be no longer than 100 words and must be addressed to your life. Submissions can be sent to dearlife@thecord.ca no later than Monday at noon each week.

Dear Life:

Thank you for summer. It was a wonderful week. Maybe next year you can try for a bit longer. Thanks.
Sincerely,
Awful Tan

Dear Life:

When is this confounded construction going to end? For the first time I've ever experienced, it actually takes more than five minutes to get from point A to point B on campus. What gives? I didn't come to a small school to walk around mazes of fences.
Sincerely,
Has Sore Feet

Dear Life:

Why am I still awake? I thought I wasn't supposed to be busy before classes start.
Sincerely,
Co-Curriculars Can be a Bitch

Dear Life:

I would like to remind all of those people out there that allow themselves to fall into a well of self-pity and unhappiness that life is short and precious. It is impossible to overstate the power of a positive outlook and I would like to remind everyone of this. Life is good and the possibilities are endless, go out and enjoy it with a bright smile on your face.
Sincerely,
Unwavering Optimist

Dear Life:

Thanks for forgetting to remind the person next to me on the plane to wear deodorant. It was an awesome five hour flight!
Sincerely,
Row 15, Seat F

Dear Life:

Thank you for allowing me to be born in the late 80s, so now I'm looking for a job just in time to watch the baby boomer generation get too old to work. No matter how much I screw up my education, I'm practically guaranteed to find a decent job in the next five to ten years.
Sincerely,
Waiting to Pounce

Dear Life:

Can you please stop all my old friends from high school from getting pregnant and having kids? It's starting to creep me out a little bit.
Sincerely,
Doesn't Want Children

Dear Life:

Do I really have to go to Africa or Europe or Thailand after I graduate? I know I'm supposed to go "see the world," but I really just want to sit on my ass and watch TV.
Sincerely,
Couch Potato

tutor needed

Honest and good tutor needed for my 10 year old son in any of the following subjects:

Math, Spanish, and French

If you excel in ANY of these subjects please email me for more information at briantaylor5291@gmail.com

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Volunteer a few hours weekly during the school day and make a life long difference to a child. Volunteers are matched by the Canadian Mental Health Association with children who need additional support at school. Friends operates in partnership with the local school boards and helps children 4 - 15 years.

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THE CORD
The first that binds Wilfrid Laurier University since 1929

EDITORIAL

Opinion Editor Kimberly Elworthy • kelworthy@thecord.ca

Laurier wish list

With a new school year upon us, The Cord has compiled a list of things we would like to see accomplished over the next eight months. Our wishes reflect what we, as students, feel are the most important and urgent missing pieces of the university.

1. Improve Laurier technology: Will the Internet on campus ever work? In the past, technology has not been one of Laurier's strengths; all the tech savvy individuals in Waterloo must go to our neighbour down the street. Whether it is signing up for classes using LORIS, checking one's WLU e-mail or trying to find out information about classes on WEBCT, nothing ever seems to work properly. If one wish is actualized in the imminent future it should be that the school not only gets a handle on its current technology systems, but also takes proactive steps to prepare for problems and contingencies. Thankfully, with Laurier currently undergoing a Information Communication and Technology (ICT) review, this wish appears to be one that is very likely to become a reality.

2. Ensure environmental sustainability: A new office to oversee environmental sustainability has been created following a referendum passed in the 2009 Wilfrid Laurier University Students' Union (WLUSU) elections. Laurier should make use of the new available resource as every student will now be contributing five dollars per semester to ensure Laurier has a "green" campus. Unfortunately, the recent construction on campus has taken away most of the already minimal, nevertheless beloved, mature trees and plants that found a home in what is now the amphitheatre. Although the grass lining of the concrete sitting area is an attempt to generate some prospect of nature within the university space, students know best that an attempt does not equal success. The second wish is that Laurier utilizes the new environmental sustainability office to create and maintain a "green" campus in both practice and aesthetics.

3. Stop excessive growth: It is becoming ever more apparent that Laurier is growing at an alarming rate. Each year the incoming first year class is increasing; this year's Orientation Week opening ceremonies is being split into two groups in order to accommodate all students as the AC is too small. While Laurier used to guarantee residence for all first year students, in recent years incoming students have been bribed with things such as money, laptops, and lowered rent to sacrifice living space or forfeit residence altogether. The university is eager to pickup more tuition checks even when it does not have adequate space for all students. In doing so, the school is slowly picking away at the reputation it sells, that Laurier is a small school. In Laurier's new 25-year master plan, the university needs to focus on the Waterloo campus. Students at a satellite campus are not getting the real Laurier experience, one you can only get in the city of Waterloo. The third wish is to not forget that sometimes less is more, so the university should stop growth, including in other cities.

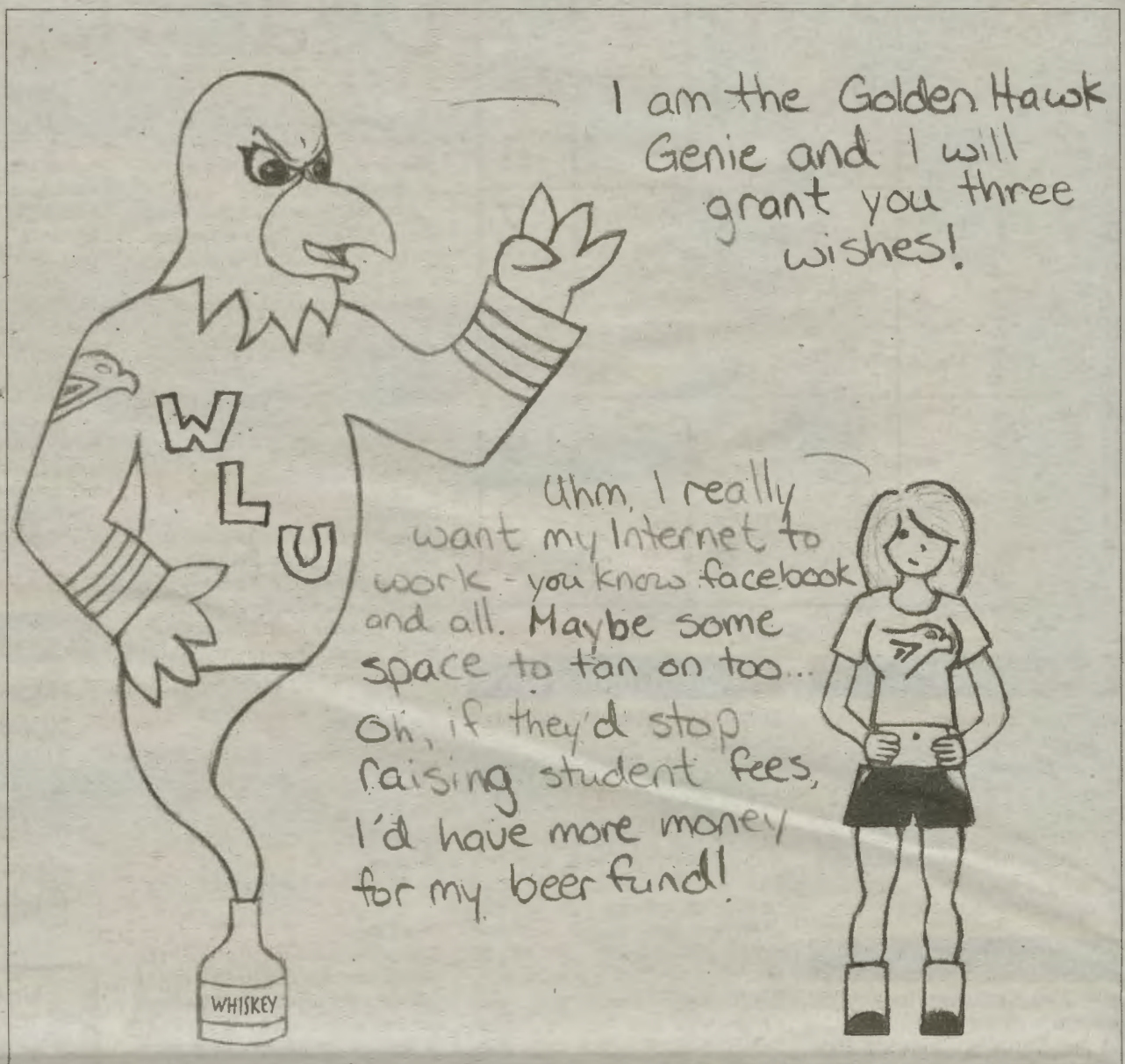
4. Spend WLUSU fees responsibly: It seems that as every year passes, fees go up and up and up and often one forgets that the opposite is possible. In fact, people look fondly on those who cut unnecessary fees. Each year several capital expenditures are undertaken by WLUSU, this years examples include a \$23,000 furniture renewal for the 24 Lounge, an \$11,500 renovation for the Center Spot checkout and the \$110,000 project to open a Williams Coffee Pub Express in the Terrace. While there is value in these projects individually in any given year, when taken collectively and done frequently they add up. Though it may be a long shot: WLUSU please practice more frugal spending habits.

5. Keep academics a priority during budget cuts: This year the university has been forced to cut \$8.9 million from their budget. The government has allowed the university to defer pension payments for one year; Laurier has chosen to invest this money in academics while they decide how to implement a more realistic long-term plan. While planning for the upcoming budget, the university needs to ensure that cuts to the courses offered, increases in class sizes and full-time hiring freezes do not happen. The last wish is for the university to continue upholding academic integrity; quality education is the most essential component to a functioning community, without it everything else will fail.

- The Cord Editorial Board

These unsigned editorials are based off informal discussions and are then agreed upon by the majority of The Cord's editorial board, which consists of 16 senior Cord staff including the Editor-in-Chief and Opinion Editor. The arguments made may reference any facts that have been made available through interviews, documents or other sources. The views presented do not necessarily reflect those of the Cord's volunteers, staff or WLUSP.

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TRINA SCHMIDT GRAPHICS EDITOR

What has Wilfie done for you?

Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister of Canada from 1896 to 1911, makes an odd choice of name for a Waterloo university, but not necessarily a bad one (and hey, it fit the initials)



DAVID GOLDBERG
letters@thecord.ca

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the seventh Prime Minister of Canada, has many tributes to him across the country; high schools, avenues and electoral districts are all named after him. Then there is Wilfrid Laurier University.

The university was known before as Waterloo Lutheran College until 1973 when it adopted its current name. There was some outcry over the choice because Sir Wilfrid had no ties to Waterloo.

Even if the name seems a little random from a historical perspective, it's not a bad name to have attached to one's university.

Laurier will always be thought of as one of Canada's toughest prime ministers. Being Canada's prime minister at the turn of the century is not an easy job because you have so many people to please.

At the same time the United States was looking up at every move and ready to pounce; meanwhile Britain controlled the slack of its former colony's movement.

That was just external relations.

Inside was a melting pot of two cultures looking for a rumble. It was French Canadians versus English Canadians and Canada needed a moderator.

It always needed a leader who could bind so many ideals into one nationalist concept. Looking back over 22 prime ministers, not all were suited for the job but

Looking back over 22 prime ministers, not all were suited for the job but Laurier does have his face on a five-dollar bill for a reason.

Laurier does have his face on a five-dollar bill for a reason.

His first test came in 1899 during the Boer War in South Africa. It was Britain's fight and they assumed all colonies (former and existing) would feel obliged to tag along.

This sentiment was not exactly off-centre. Many English-Canadians were raring to go because they had recently immigrated and their heart still beat for Queen Victoria; but most French-Canadians wanted no part of this.

Rather than give in to England's request for 500 conscripted soldiers, Laurier stood his ground and announced that he would send 1,000 volunteers.

Laurier's next problem was Alaska. The small piece of land was under dispute between Canada and the United States because it contained important waterways for travel. Britain, the United States and Canada all made up a panel that would make a legal decision. In the end Britain

and the U.S. coerced, leaving Canada feeling betrayed by Britain and alone in North America.

Bruised but not broken, Laurier continued to fight for Canada. He oversaw the induction of Saskatchewan and Alberta into confederation in 1905.

This solidified Canada's borders with the United States. He also progressed Canada's military independence by appointing Canadian instead of British citizens to lead Canuck armies.

If you look at his record it seems like Laurier did not accomplish a lot of things.

He failed to get a piece of Alaska for Canada and he failed to fulfill his dream of a full-fledged Canadian navy, but the point is that he was always there for Canada.

When Britain wanted Canadian resources for their imperial conquests he did it on Canada's terms.

When Americans wanted access to Canada's waterways for the Great Lakes, Laurier made his position known.

Laurier was one of Canada's greatest ambassadors to the world because he was a good negotiator.

Canada's struggle has been external relations, whether it was trying to get Britain to loosen its iron fist or dealing with inferiority complex with the U.S. head on.

Laurier took the first step towards a solution by creating a Department of Public Affairs. He knew the importance of a strong country on the inside, projecting a strong image to the rest of the world.

In one of his speeches Laurier said: "Two races share today the soil of Canada. These people had not always been friends. But I hasten to say it. There is no longer any family here but the human family. It matters not the language people speak, or the altars at which they kneel."

THE FORUM

From the Editor

I believe the media should be an outlet where people can interact, express themselves and learn from each other. I hope to foster this sense of campus discourse within the new feature of the opinion section, The Forum.

I truly believe in the value of the **Letters to the Editor** section. Newspapers are by no means perfect at reporting the truth or expressing the thoughts of the people; however, they are excellent sources that begin a dialogue within the public sphere so that ideas can be exchanged within the community.

I encourage students, staff, alumni and community members to contribute their thoughts on anything they read in The Cord. I aim to publish all the letters I receive in my mailbox, as long as they adhere to the guidelines described below.

Furthermore, I feel that the knowledge from experienced members of the Laurier community, along with articles published in the past offer substantial insight that should not be left untapped.

And so it follows that The Forum will have an area dedicated to "From the Archives" and "Words of Wisdom."

This is a page dedicated to the voice of the people and I invite everyone to take advantage of it.

-Kimberly Elworthy,
Opinion Editor 2009-10

From the archives: 1968

Letters to the Editor

The rate at which the new "Coke" machines have been taking in money without dispensing drinks in return should result in the accumulation of funds of such magnitude that it will no longer be necessary to have an Office of University Resources.

- Prof G.F. Durst, Sept. 27

Rivulets of water originating from a cooler in the first floor lounge ran down the centre of my room, eroding the tile and water marking my Sunday-best shoes, which I wear on Wednesday to fool people. Why the deluge?

-Miss Wringing Wet, Oct. 4

It's about the guys on campus who have not as yet, (even after 13 years of schooling and lessons on public conduct from their mommies and daddies), mastered the difficult task of keeping their pants up.

We are referring, of course, to the group of "gentlemen" who parade around in front of women's residence windows with their pants down around their knees. It's about time they started acting their age instead of their shoe size.

- D Wing, Nov. 8

We would like to reply to the prim and proper young ladies of "D" Wing on their rather ludicrous attempt at satire which appeared in last week's Cord. They commented on the white knights charging with lances waving in the light of the moons on one Thursday evening past.

Therefore, because of their reaction, we challenge them to a joust. So en guard ladies or will it be touche.

- Starved East Hall Wing 2B, Nov. 15

Letter Policy

Letters must not exceed 250 words. Include your full name and telephone number. Letters must be received by 12:00 p.m. noon Monday via e-mail to letters@thecord.ca. The Cord reserves the right to edit for length and clarity or to reject any letter.

From the archives: Sept. 17, 1968 Welcome to WLU Frosh: Meet the System

If you are ambitious, intelligent, mature, resourceful and looking for a good education, you have come to the wrong place. University is not for you.

The experience of being broken will be priceless; unfortunately, you pay for this pricelessness. You pay because your utopian ideals of enhancing your already impoverished mind vanish almost before your eyes.

The cool way the public system takes away your identity and makes you a sausage like everyone else is fully realized when you see the system in action. You never leave the system.

You have come to a place where freedom abounds, minds have intercourse to create bouncing new ideas to be recognized, and you are accepted for yourself as an individual, capable of thinking and feeling. Nonsense!

No mind is free after kindergarten. All minds are warped by university.

You will struggle to get your head out of the feces, but higher education will manage to pull you down again with the rest of the sausages. When you see the system at work, then you will think of protest.

When your ideas have been rejected, you will feel the doom of freedom.

Learn how to vomit. Learn how to bring up everything you will be required to read and listen to, no matter how wrong, or how inexplicable it may seem at the time. You will get a

piece of paper to put by the toilet for your memory.

Some students will try to rectify the chaos. Scraps will be thrown to them and they will puff out their chest and say, "I have changed things." But have they really?

The majority of decisions will still be made by the system and its operators. Only in the few unanimous votes will they count.

Yes, there is preparation at university. The preparation will give you a 9 to 5 job behind a lifeless desk in some lifeless office. Here you will get used to the stench of stagnant things.

The musty old minds that waddle down the hall smoking musty pipes saying the same words they have been saying for 15 years may bother you at first. Unless there is a change, put yourself in those shoes.

Learning how to achieve a freedom which you have never experienced is like learning how to walk again. You must abide by the rules. Learn what you are told. Say what you are told.

Imperialism is not a word used only to describe the U.S.S.R. in Czechoslovakia, or the U.S. in Vietnam. It would also describe the effect the administration has over the courses and the students. The system resided in this form as it does in other forms. Freedom can't even be properly defined.

Excerpt by unknown writer



WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
Senior students dump water on first years in front of Willison Hall as part of Waterloo College initiation week in 1947.

1968 fun facts

Politics:

U.S. President: Lyndon B. Johnson
Canadian Prime Minister: Lester B. Pearson, Pierre Elliott Trudeau (elected Apr. 20)

Culture:

Student protests
Cold War
Proxy War in Vietnam
American Civil Rights movement
Apollo program

Notable Deaths:

Mar. 27: Yuri Gagarin
Apr. 4: Martin Luther King, Jr.
June 1: Hellen Keller
June 5: Robert F. Kennedy

Entertainment:

60 minutes debuts on CBS
Beatles release *White Album*
2001: *A Space Odyssey* premieres
Oliver! (Dir. Sir Carol Reed) wins Best Picture

Words of wisdom:

How power can corrupt



DON MORGENSON
letters@thecord.ca

There always seem to be people who, when acceding to just a little power, become absolutely monstrous.

We have seen it in celebrities of all colours, political figures all along the spectrum, lottery winners and CEOs who pamper themselves and take huge severance packages while heartlessly down-sizing, forcing staff reductions and squandering millions while simultaneously feathering their own nests.

Recent examples are simply too numerous to list.

How can these behaviours be explained? Just what happens? Why do people with a modicum of power behave so terribly?

According to Dr. Robert Millman, a researcher at Cornell University, some of us suffer from "acquired situational narcissism."

The symptoms: rage in response to frustrations, delusions of grandeur reaching megalomaniacal proportions and a shrunken ability to empathize.

Those with acquired situational narcissism are like Tinkerbell in Peter Pan – they only feel a quickened sense of life when other people are applauding them.

They act out what are normally suppressed aspects of attention-seeking and grandiose fantasies most of us keep quiet or put aside as we mature and comprehend reality.

The typical "sufferer" has likely experienced a rapid, almost meteoric rise in a short period of time – those people with newly acquired wealth, newly coined celebrities, freshly elected political officials and those CEOs who shine brightest in the Bay Street board rooms.

Being a new CEO goes completely to one's head; while enjoying new found power, they tend to surround themselves with sycophants.

They cultivate such a huge image that its further growth is irresistible. And they come to believe the image to be true and real.

This combination of wealth, fame and power begins to subvert any critical assessment of themselves and leads to severely inflated ideas of their own abilities, because all that people around them ever do is enthusiastically agree with them.

We have all seen celebrities who become absolutely tyrannical when their careers really take off and their fawning public cries out for more perverse details of their lives.

The next thing you know the so-called celebrity is demanding a plush velvet carpet outside the hotel in which they are staying, only new-blue M&Ms on their pillows and a cherry Coke at three in the morning in Prague!

A contemporary example is John Edwards, a former US Senator and John Kerry's running mate in 2004, who lied about his extramarital affair.

He was quoted in the *New York Times* as saying, "I started believing that I was special and became increasingly egocentric and narcissistic."

Testing the hypothesis that power makes people "stupid and insensitive and disinhibited," psychologist Dacher Keltner from the University of California at Berkeley, found that the increase of corporate and personal power fires up the approach system (which urges one to do) and shuts down the inhibition system (which controls what one does not do).

These now powerful people increasingly focus on potential rewards – money, sex, public acclaim – and fail to notice the likely costs that might make them more inhibited.

Now at the top, our person with acquired situational narcissism who is uninhibited and impulse-ridden begins to act in self-destructive ways.

Their marriages are disrupted, they make terrible parents, they begin to indulge in substance abuse, they run afoul of the law (shoplifting, visiting

brothels or contracting a high-end "call girl") and they manipulate numbers in corporate accounts, all because they now believe that such laws and regulations do not apply to them.

Experts believe that there must be a personality predisposition in order to develop acquired situational narcissism.

Perhaps their parents constantly told them they were fantastic and now they firmly believe it.

There is one significant developmental flaw: the person develops a very fragile sense of self.

In this world full of admirers, the narcissist is distracted from the truth: they have an egg-shell-thin sense of selfhood.

And, of course, the very sad reality, and one they tend to overlook, is that those very people who worship you on the way up are the very same people who will kick you on your way down.

The prognosis for those suffering from acquired situational narcissism is not good.

Our society continues to be celebrity-obsessed, and fame and fortune are mistaken for the true measures of happiness and success.

More and more of us will likely succumb to acquired situational narcissism until we all accept responsibility for our powerful friends, and drag them kicking and screaming back to reality.

OPINION

Futile to ignore man-made climate change

To understand the environmental impacts, Emily Slofstra visits the North



EMILY SLOFSTRA
letters@thecord.ca

With the Copenhagen climate negotiations commencing in December, it is important that Canada does not repeat past performances as a laggard on the issue of climate change mitigation.

As political leaders make their way north to emphasize Canada's Arctic sovereignty, the North would be better used as an example of why Canada should care more about climate change.

The science of climate change is rarely debated anymore. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international Nobel Peace Prize winning organization, has stated that global greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. An interim goal for most nations is a reduction of 25 to 40 per cent by 2020.

Our leaders obviously do not see the severity of the situation, as Canada's current goal is a cut of three per cent by 2020.

For the general public, it's understandable that number campaigns such as 350.org (the reasonable amount of carbon dioxide that should be in the atmosphere, as opposed to the current 386 parts per million) or 2 degrees (if the planet warms more than 2 degrees, the effects will be catastrophic) might be difficult to comprehend; politicians should be enlightened enough as to understand the magnitude of these problems.

As residents of southern Ontario, we might already be experiencing climate change, mostly in the form of extreme weather events which could've been a factor in the unexpected tornado that hit Durham on August 21.

Canada's North has more difficulty in such escapism: energy is harder to procure and living costs are already expensive.

I began to fully comprehend this imbalance when I visited Inuvik, Northwest Territories, for the Young Leaders' Summit on Northern Climate Change this August.

Across the globe it is those who have the least control over climate change that will feel the greatest effects. Canadians who depend on the

land directly will be most affected by these changes, Northerners especially so.

Much research is being done with scientific evidence that sea ice is receding and that the thawing of permafrost could affect carbon levels, but the personal hardships and experiences from both elders and youth that I was able to hear were much more compelling.

It was difficult for me to sit and listen to my new friends speak about close community members falling to their death through the ice. The ice was once sturdy and safe, but is no longer predictable.

Or, to hear elders like Charlie Snowshoe discuss how species from the south are moving north and those from the north are moving south; this makes for new difficulties and challenges in hunting, which has been the way of life in many communities for centuries.

Furthermore, more than one elder community member commented that "the meat tastes funny," which could mean troublesome changes with certain species.

This signals a future problem with the already many health implications from a shift in reliance on hunting to processed food.

Sometimes the severity of these issues is extremely difficult to comprehend, as the Earth goes through natural cycles and ecosystems change over time; Charlie Snowshoe understood this, yet commented, "I don't call it climate change. I call it man-made change."

There is no doubt that man-made climate change is occurring, and it is up to our government to join with other world leaders to implement strong regulations that will cut greenhouse gas emissions.

If these policies are not put in place, the North as we know it will be devastated.

Perhaps instead of focusing on military strategy when Stephen Harper and other politicians visit the North, stories of community members should be heard and discussed.

The facts are there, and these personal tales of change and death prove that climate change is happening now.

As citizens of southern Canada, we should use all our resources to reduce our emissions on personal and industrial levels.

If we don't, it's not just the polar bears that will suffer; it's the people, too.



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Love is not always rainbows and ponies; dealing with the hormonal spouse will challenge your sanity.

Is there an airport nearby... or is that just my heart taking off?



KIMBERLY ELWORTHY
letters@thecord.ca

As I skim through newspapers spouting the daily, predictable news warning the plight of humanity, I become overwhelmed with the injustice of it all and the general triumph of evil.

There is an endless list of things people are not doing to improve life. Any optimistic attempt at progress or change is trampled by the sheer magnitude of our failings.

And yet we wake up over and over again, we continue to struggle for life and our existence regardless of all crises; we fight to be here for a reason and that reason is love.

Love means so many different things at varying times for so many people. Love can extend from blood relationships or it can be shared platonically.

Romantic love sometimes develops over time, or sparks immediately. You can fall deeply, passionately in love for a lifetime whereas others might fall to the crutches of love for only a fleeting moment.

I don't intend to take precedence over one or the other because for me love, just as it is, is it.

At times there are people you come across that are irreplaceable, they leave an impression on your life and

connect with you on a deeply unique level.

This is what makes human relationships so fundamental to happiness, the select group of people exclusive to your experience; it is why death can be so frightening and loss so painful.

Platonic love is the most beautiful kind of love; it tends to not be victim to possessive desires, nor does it require the immediacy, reassurance and attention of romantic love.

It's acceptable to have many platonic loves at once and throughout life, people are not required to promise love or commitment to their parents, children or closest friends, it just is.

We also don't have to worry whether or not things are still spicy and heated in the bedroom over the years or whether we feel sexually attracted to someone we have seen in every unattractive situation life could possibly present.

Nevertheless, I do strongly believe that romantic love, what some call lust, is a magnificent wonder.

I have told a close friend, more than once, that getting to see her fall in love for the first time will be like watching someone eat the best dessert on the planet they couldn't possibly comprehend.

Though, I have been witness to copious amount of advice on romantic love; people attempting to define it, to control it, to make rules to it.

There are so many rules to relationships embedded in society; accepted notions about who to love, when to love, cheating, gender, age, money,

fighting, passion, sex, compatibility and the list is infinite.

Everyone wants their love to fit in a perfect box, everyone wants that forever love where no one gets hurt, where they get the life they had always imagined.

When it is not actualized, which is more likely than not, it becomes a failure; it becomes something that has to be fixed rather than just being accepted as reality.

There are no secret ingredients to everlasting love. No matter how hard you try to pace it appropriately, to master the right mixture of personality traits or to do what is "right," it is impossible to safeguard yourself from heartbreak or failure.

Love is impossibly difficult and complicated; marriage, common law or children do not solve the puzzle either, as much as people try to make it so.

The reality is that no one knows how to make a good relationship, those who have one are simply at the mercy of time and sheer dumb luck.

But this is the greatness of love, no matter how hard it gets or how deteriorating it can be, we cannot live without it and somehow, it is worth every ounce of effort.

Love will never imply happiness, nor will it solve life's problems.

Love is often hard and can be lonely and disappointing, but what it comes down to at the end of the day is that life is too short not to take chances, to not take the risk of getting hurt in order to uncover an irreplaceable connection with another human being.



page 3

LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
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province.

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LAUREN MILLET NEWS EDITOR

The current economic recession has found its way into co-op departments at universities across the region.

While more students are looking to co-op as means of employment, there are simply fewer jobs available to them.

"There is more competition from other schools; it is a tighter market," said Karen McCarger, associate director of Laurier's department of co-operative education.

"Employers are not able to provide opportunities as early in the term; there are more last minute opportunities that come up. We have also seen a decrease in the number of weeks an employer can offer a job for."

McCarger noted that many employers are waiting longer to see if they have the funding to support students for a work term; and therefore, the jobs are being posted much later than usual. "Arts and science jobs don't come up as early, particularly those with non-profit organizations, because often they are dependent on [government] funding," he said.

In arts and science, 64 per cent of students have placements compared to last year's 74 per cent, but only nine fewer students have jobs due to an increase in the number of students in co-op.

According to McCarger, the employment rate for business co-op in the May to August work term is at 85

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Wikipedia says, "Cultural relativism is the principle that an individual human's beliefs and activities should be understood in terms of his or her own culture. This principle was established as [unquestionable] in anthropological research by Franz Boas in the first few decades of the 20th century."

Cultural Relativism is irrelevant



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

The current burqa controversy: Is it oppression or a choice?



JAMES POPKIE
letters@thecord.ca

Oppression and human rights abuses should not be accepted under the guise of cultural differences.

The notion that cruelty and oppression should not be allowed under the blanket of cultural and religious differences is something that should go without saying.

To me, it sounds ludicrous to argue that various forms of discrimination and oppression are not only understandable but morally justified when social and cultural acceptability permit them.

Unfortunately, however, cultural relativism – the belief that any action is morally justifiable and should be condoned by society, on the basis of cultural differences – is a widely held belief in Western society, particularly within the realm of academia.

The sort of actions condoned by cultural relativism may include honour killings, female genital mutilation, cannibalism, the mistreatment of women, the punishment of rape victims for being raped and discrimination against homosexuals.

The difference between criticising a culture or religion; compared to attributes such as their race, gender or sexual orientation, is that culture and religion are things that people choose and create.

They are belief systems based on specific ideologies and principles, not

innate aspects that a person is born with and cannot change.

Even if a person is indoctrinated from birth, they ultimately have the power to change their beliefs and practices, especially in an open society like Canada.

There is no ideological belief inherent to being a particular race, gender or sexual orientation, while being part of a specific culture or religion ties one to specific principles and belief systems.

These belief systems, if contradictory to basic human rights and freedoms, should indeed be openly criticised, rather than protected from criticism under the hypocrisy of political correctness.

Morality and social acceptability do not go hand in hand, and what is morally unjust in one place is morally unjust in another. There are plenty of terrible practices that are socially acceptable in various settings, and plenty of harmless and beneficial lifestyles and modes of self-expression considered socially unacceptable.

Even though I would choose to punish someone with more leniency for carrying out an inhumane practice that they were brought up to believe in, as opposed to a practice which no one except themselves pressured them into doing, it would not make the act itself any less reprehensible.

A great deal of people claim to stand up for tolerance and human rights but also for cultural relativism. These beliefs are incompatible.

You cannot stand up for tolerance while still condoning and even promoting the flourishing of violence and oppression. People need to choose whether they believe in human rights or the supremacy of cultural norms.

Part of the reason why nations like Canada are so desirable for people from around the world to immigrate to is that these nations respect human rights and freedoms in a way that other nations do not.

But if we are to tolerate injustice under the guise of cultural norms and practices, Canada will be no sanctuary or safe haven; instead it will present people with the exact same injustices and problems that they have come here to flee.

Various problematic practices based in foreign cultures, such as familial based honour killings, have indeed taken place here. Tolerance should mean preventing acts such as honour killings, the stoning of homosexuals and forcing women to wear the burqa, rather than allowing such oppression to flourish.

Many view the wearing of the burqa in particular as a rights issue and laws to prohibit the donning of such clothing in places such as France and Turkey are seen as restrictions of freedom.

While I would not disagree that such laws are repressive, the burqa itself can be used to oppress women. While some women choose to wear such clothing, many others are forced to do so.

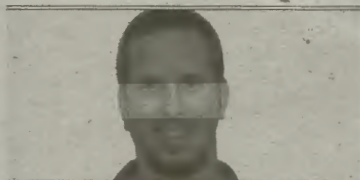
To be fair, Western culture is not perfect either, and there is a lot we could learn from other cultures about things such as respecting the earth and valuing people over products.

The irrational, morally bankrupt belief system of cultural relativism is incompatible with a belief in tolerance, fairness, justice and equality.

It is very unfortunate that it is as accepted and widespread as it is, both in the realm of academia and elsewhere.

Purpose of imprisonment misunderstood

The Scottish government remembers that revenge is not the motivation of the justice system



GREG SACKS
letters@thecord.ca

The recent release of Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi, the only man convicted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, has angered many people over the past few weeks.

Words like "shocked," "heartbroken" and "depressed" have been the stuff of headlines, particularly in the U.S., where most of the flight's passengers were from.

Not surprisingly, the victims' loved ones feel that the small measure of justice they received has been absconded with.

Unfortunately for them, they are wrong. Not just about the "mistake" of Mr. al-Megrahi's release – that is a matter about which Scottish law is quite clear – but about the intent of the justice system.

Amongst Americans – and Canadians too, for that matter – there often seems to be a feeling that when a criminal is convicted, their sentence serves as revenge for the victim or victims.

This is mistaking an action's effect with its cause. Quite the contrary, in fact – the very purpose of the judiciary

is to mitigate the destructive influence which personal revenge can have on society.

Victims, or their relatives, may find comfort in the criminal's fate, but that is not the main intention of the courts; they exist to decide what manner of sentence best serves the greater good.

To put it very simply, if someone has killed they may do it again. It is thus prudent for that individual to be removed to a secluded location, executed, or made to undergo treatment – depending, of course, on what country it is we're talking about.

Mr. al-Megrahi was tried, convicted and sentenced accordingly. He was to spend 27 years in prison, far removed from any opportunity to commit another act of murder or terrorism.

He was not put there so that the people affected by his alleged crimes could bask in his sufferings. The court that tried him was not a replacement for their desire to hit back.

Sadly, for some, this revelation came only with the announcement that the Scottish government was releasing Mr. al-Megrahi, who is dying from prostate cancer, on compassionate grounds.

On Aug. 20, 2009, CBC news reported that Kara Weipz, the sister of one of the victims, said, "I don't understand how the Scots can show compassion. It's an utter insult and utterly disgusting.... I don't show compassion for someone who showed no remorse."

Her statement betrays a belief that Mr. al-Megrahi's prison sentence had something to do with her; it didn't.

I find it difficult to differentiate between satisfaction in another person's incarceration and the fulfilment that the same people assume Mr. al-Megrahi took in his alleged actions.

Ms. Weipz's anger at the decision to release him is entirely of her own making; it is based on the fallacious assumption that the courts did as they did to make her, and the relatives of other victims, feel better.

I find it difficult to differentiate between satisfaction in another person's incarceration and the fulfilment that the same people assume Mr. al-Megrahi took in his alleged actions.

In the latter case, people were deprived of their lives; in the former, a person was deprived of a portion of his life.

To paraphrase Frank Herbert, the difference is only one of degree.

Taking pleasure from either situation is not a thing to aspire to. That people would be evidence of the dark currents that ripple under the surface of human nature.

However, there is a brighter side to be found in this issue.

Over the past several years, it has become obvious that Mr. al-Megrahi's trial and subsequent appeal were both riddled with problems.

Because of this, a second appeal was in the works. Unfortunately, given the advanced state of Mr. al-Megrahi's

illness, it was extremely unlikely that he would survive to the trial's conclusion.

In the U.S., and, I fear, in Canada as well, this would be of little interest to anyone.

"Convicted terrorist" is not a label which carries much sympathy these days, as evidenced by President Obama's statement warning Scotland against a decision to release.

However, the Scottish government decided that this man deserved the chance to return home before he died, in spite of the awful destruction that he may very well have wrought.

A lawyer for several of the victims declared the decision a victory of government interests over those of the people.

I wholeheartedly feel that it was, in fact, just the opposite.

Instead of bending to what must surely have been a tempting political impulse, Scotland's government decided to remember that, whatever else he may be, Mr. al-Megrahi remains human.

It is a consideration from which people on our side of the Atlantic could stand to learn.

Events in the Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi case

April 1, 1952: Megrahi was born in Tripoli, Libya

Dec. 21, 1988: Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103

Jan. 31, 2001: Megrahi convicted of 270 counts of murder

June 28, 2007: Granted second appeal due to possible miscarriage of justice

2008: Diagnosed with prostate cancer

2009: Second appeal (release on compassionate grounds)

Aug. 20, 2009: Released and arrives in Libya

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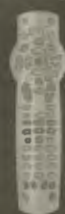
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6 MIKE	7 Matt	8 dave	9 evan	10 MIKE
13 evan	14 MIKE	15 Matt	16 dave	17 evan
20 dave	21 evan	22 MIKE	23 Matt	24 dave
27 Matt	28 dave	29 evan	30 MIKE	

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SPORTS

Sports Editor Justin Fauteux • jfauteux@thecord.ca

Funding cuts affect athletes

Following June's budget cuts, varsity teams are now seeking additional fiscal sources to ensure that they can continue playing this upcoming season

ANDREA MILLET
LEAD REPORTER

The Wilfrid Laurier University athletics department is facing some changes this year as they are forced to navigate through 2009-10 with a significantly smaller operating budget, following \$380,000 (roughly 16 per cent) funding cuts.

Eight varsity teams now face the challenge of finding their own financial support and working together to continue their season.

"What we lost this year was funding for some of our competition training; travel to practices and competitions and competition registration," said head cheerleading coach Melissa Marshall.

"The main change will be that we just need to spend more time fundraising," Marshall added.

The cuts will limit the competitions that many of these teams can be a part of and will also mean that they must increase their fundraising in order to train and compete this season.

Marshall explains that the cheerleading team has always been a "pay-to-play sport", meaning it has never received as much financial support as some of the other varsity teams.

While the team has always had to cover the cost of uniforms and traveling expenses, the defending national champions will only be able to compete if they can raise the money to travel and register in tournaments.

Fundraising has become a necessity for all the teams affected by cuts, forcing the athletes and coaches to work together to fund their own season.

Many have turned to alumni for assistance.

Head coach of the men's baseball team Scott Ballantyne explains that Laurier Athletics already has the "Adopt a Hawk" fundraiser, in which each athlete finds a sponsor.

This year the sponsorship sum that athletes are asking for is increasing from \$300 to \$500. The teams have also come up with new fundraising ideas such as a golf tournament, T-shirt sales and 50/50 draws.

"We're obviously disappointed that we won't be receiving any financial support from the school, but the athletes have kind of taken it upon themselves," said Ballantyne. "I think they've kind of rallied around the fact that we are in a different position than some of the other teams that we're going to be competing against."

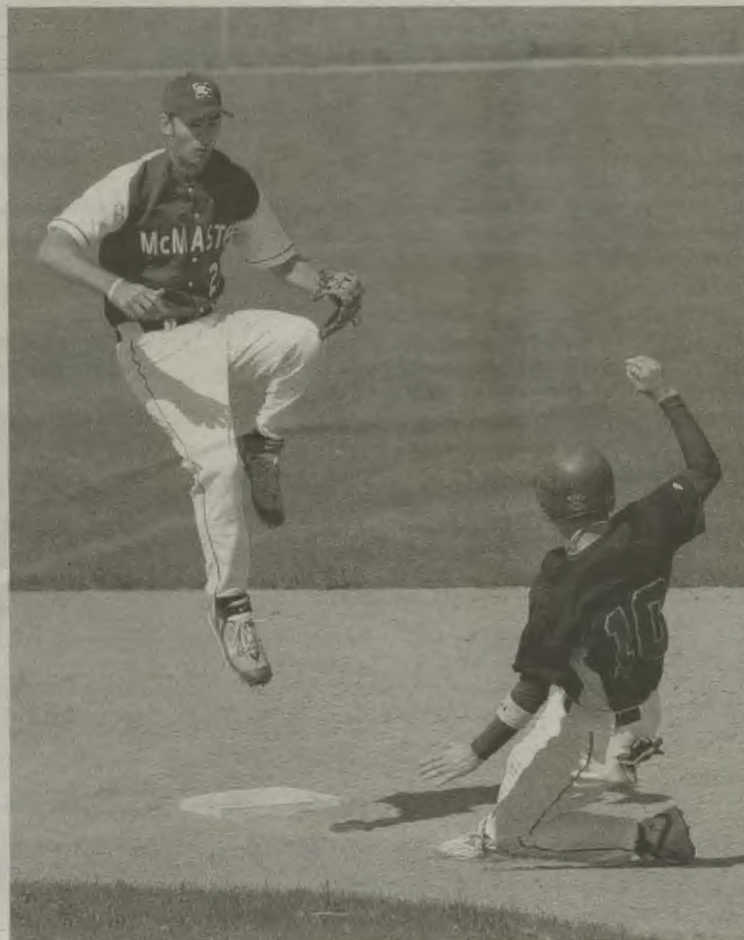
The shared frustration at losing their funding, as well as the need to work together to raise money, has the potential to bring these athletes even closer together.

Teammates are brainstorming and working hard to keep their teams competitive; some of the coaches have even seen positive results from the cutbacks.

While both fundraising and alumni support have been a source of help previously, the future of these teams remains unclear.

The start of the school year and the prospect of many more years of fundraising brings yet another challenge for athletes to face.

"They've worked together to come up with different ideas to fundraise, but at the same time it's also a lot more pressure and work, so once the school year starts it will be interesting to see how well the fundraising continues," said Marshall.



RYAN STEWART FILE PHOTO

Second baseman Scott Mahn slides in during a 2008 game against the Marauders. Baseball was one of eight teams to lose funding.

Varsity teams that lost Laurier funding

Cheerleading
Baseball
Men's, women's rugby

Figure skating
Golf
Men's, women's cross country

While you were out...

Cheerleaders win gold

Team Canada took home the gold at late April's World Cheerleading Championship and Laurier cheerleading was strongly represented. Erin Dobson, Jon Cameron, Sarah Dybka and Lauren Ball, all former Golden Hawk cheerleaders, played a vital role in Canada's win at the inaugural tournament.

Over 40 nations competed in the championship and Team Canada came out on top in both the co-ed elite and all-girl elite divisions.

— Reported by Justin Fauteux

Hawks drafted to CFL

This year the Winnipeg Blue Bombers selected a pair of Laurier alumni in the CFL draft. Offensive lineman Adam Bestard and fullback Peter Quinney were drafted 27th and 35th overall respectively, joining fellow former Hawk Ian Logan in Winnipeg.

The pair signed contracts in late May, and took part in the Blue Bombers' training camp throughout June.

However, neither player was able to crack the final roster and they are currently listed as free-agents.

— Reported by Tiejia MacLaughlin

Pool finally "saved"

Proponents of the "save the pool" initiative at Laurier received some good news over the summer as the university received the funding that was

required to keep the beleaguered Athletic Complex pool in operation.

Through investments from the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, the Region of Waterloo (ROW) swim club and the students of Wilfrid Laurier University, \$2 million was raised to allow for the pool to undergo extensive renovations over the summer.

These developments came about two months after the pool closed for the construction, as it was announced that the university would receive an additional \$1 million from both the federal and provincial governments, allowing for the pool to remain open for another 15-20 years.

— Reported by Justin Fauteux

Former Hawk recognized

In mid-July, Ian Logan, who was a member of Laurier's 2005 Vanier Cup winning football team, was named the runner up for the CFL Canadian player of the week. The Waterloo native, currently a member of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, made three tackles and added a key interception in a 42-30 win over the Calgary Stampeders.

Logan is currently tied for second in the league with three interceptions and has 21 tackles.

— Reported by Lauren Millet

Two Hawks go pro

Luke Girard and Mark Voakes, both of whom had excellent careers as Golden

Hawks, will be playing hockey for a living in 2009-10.

Girard will be heading across the Atlantic to Belgium to play for Herentalse HYC of the Royal Belgian Ice Hockey Federation. He played four seasons at Laurier, tallying 41 goals and 41 assists in 97 games.

After closing his university career by winning the President's Award as Laurier's male athlete of the year, Voakes was signed by the Cincinnati Cyclones, the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL) affiliate of the Montreal Canadiens and Nashville Predators.

Voakes recorded 154 points in 102 career games, at Laurier, and was named the OUA MVP in 2008-09, as well as the team MVP in both 2006-07 and 2008-09.

— Reported by Lauren Millet

Swimming coach retires

A long-time member of the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks community, Dean Boles, will be leaving the purple and gold in September to pursue a position with Swim Ontario.

Boles became head coach of the men's and women's varsity teams in 1987.

During his time as coach, Boles was named Ontario University Athletics (OUA) coach of the year three times as well as CIAU — now known as Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) — coach of the year in 2000.

— Reported by Lauren Millet

Football recruit recognized

Alex Anthony, who will join the men's football team this season, got the opportunity to compete on the international level this summer.

The young wide receiver was part of Canada's entry at the inaugural International Federation of American Football (IFAF) Junior World Championship, which took place in late June.

Anthony, who is one of the top recruits in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) this season, finished the tournament as Team Canada's top receiver, and played a key role in the team's dramatic semi-final victory over Japan, catching five passes for 98 yards.

— Reported by Justin Fauteux

New curling coach

The Golden Hawks curling teams, which have enjoyed incredible success over the past few years, will have a new head coach this coming season.

After former head coach Ken McCormack left the program following the 2008-09 season — a season which saw the women's team claim the national title — Gary Crossley was named his successor on July 17.

Crossley, a graduate of the University of Waterloo, has coached numerous successful young curlers, and is a former president of the Elmira Curling Club.

— Reported by Justin Fauteux

Sports in brief

NHL hockey in KW

This week, the Kitchener Memorial Auditorium will play host to the annual rookie tournament put on by the Toronto Maple Leafs. Teams of prospective players from the Boston Bruins, Ottawa Senators, Pittsburgh Penguins and the Leafs will be competing.

Games began yesterday and will run all week, with two games each day until the culmination of the round robin on Thursday. The championship games will be played this weekend.

— Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Varsity teams to play games in Brantford

This coming season the Golden Hawks' men's baseball team and men's hockey team will each be playing a pair of games at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus.

The baseball team will take on the Western Mustangs in a double-header on September 20 at Brantford's Arnold Anderson Stadium.

The hockey team will head to the Brantford Civic Centre on Sept. 19 for an exhibition game against the Guelph Gryphons, then on Oct. 17 — Laurier Brantford's homecoming weekend — for a regular season match up versus the Windsor Lancers.

— Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Hawks crushed by Vermont

On Aug. 29, the Golden Hawks' women's basketball team suffered a 111-44 loss to the University of Vermont Catamounts.

May Kotsopoulos, a Waterloo native, led the way for the Catamounts, scoring 37 points towards their victory. Rookie Alena Luciani was the Hawks lead scorer with nine points.

— Compiled by Justin Fauteux

Success at nation games

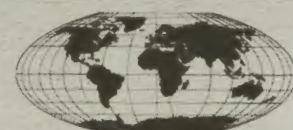
Four members of Laurier athletics have claimed medals at the Canada Games in Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Shayne White, head coach of Laurier's men's volleyball team, coached Team Ontario to a silver medal falling to team Alberta in the final.

Another Hawks' medal went to Jarret Humphreys, a first year goalkeeper with the men's soccer team. He won a bronze in soccer with Team Ontario, recording two shutouts in the tournament. Athletes also took home medals in women's volleyball. Tesca Andrew-Wasylik won silver with Team Ontario and Ali Hyde was part of the gold-medal winning team from Manitoba.

— Compiled by Justin Fauteux

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Football season officially open

Hawks ranked seventh in Canada

The University Football Reporters of Canada have released their pre-season Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) football rankings and have placed the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks as the seventh best team in the nation.

This puts the Hawks at second place in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) behind last year's Vanier Cup finalists, the Western Mustangs.

The defending national champion, Laval Rouge et Or, will open as the top seed for the fifth consecutive season and have now been number one in 49 of the past 50 national rankings, dating back to 2005.

The Hawks' rivals from Western slide into the second spot, followed by Calgary, Saskatchewan, Saint Mary's and Concordia.

The Golden Hawks come in at number seven with Queen's, Montreal and Ottawa rounding out the top ten.

- Compiled by Justin Fauteux

CIS national rankings

1. Laval Rouge et Or
2. Western Ontario Mustangs
3. Calgary Dinos
4. Saskatchewan Huskies
5. Saint Mary's Huskies
6. Concordia Stingers
7. Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks
8. Queen's Golden Gaels
9. Montreal Carabins
10. Ottawa Gee Gees

No home game during O-Week

For the first time in nine years, the Golden Hawks will not have a home football game during Orientation Week.

Ever since the 2000 season, the Hawks have played a game at University Stadium either on Labour Day or the Saturday of O-Week.

Last season, the Hawks played at home twice during the opening week of the school year, defeating the Guelph Gryphons 15-13 and losing to the Western Mustangs 31-20.

- Compiled by Justin Fauteux

The Hawks travel to Toronto on Monday, Sept. 7 for their first game of the season against the University of Toronto Varsity Blues. For game results visit

thecord.ca



YUSUF KIDWAI PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Laurier's varsity football team gears up for another season; with new recruits and skilled veterans, the Hawk's season looks promising.

TIEJA MACLAUGHLIN STAFF WRITER

96 eager football players have taken over the University Stadium field for the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks two-week training camp, which kicked off on Aug. 23.

With 36 freshmen and more than a handful of top-notch veterans on this year's roster, manager of football operations and head coach Gary Jeffries is looking forward to a promising season.

"I think we have great potential," said Jeffries. "It's an outstanding group with a lot of talent, and we're very excited."

The Hawks begin the season ranked seventh in the nation by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS), and many predict the group will be a strong competitor for the Vanier Cup.

"We have one of the top classes this year coming in," said highly-touted

rookie wide-receiver Alex Anthony.

"Every practice is super competitive; we have first-year guys competing for starting spots."

Anthony is one of the team's most anticipated new players this year. The 18-year-old hails from Mount Douglas Secondary School in Victoria, B.C., and has been sought after by schools all over Canada and the U.S.

The Hawks managed to scoop up the high school superstar and now have, arguably, one of the best wide receivers in Canada on the roster.

"Scouting is a very important aspect," commented Jeffries. "We already have about 75 kids on our list for next year. Scouting at least a year in advance is critical for success."

Another one of Laurier's promising recruits is linebacker Nick Sapone. Sapone comes from Vanier College in Montreal, and seems to be fitting in just fine with the rest of the team.

"Everyone's making me feel very welcome," he said.

Anthony shares Sapone's opinion, saying, "Everyone seems to be coming together well. We're really building team chemistry."

Veterans such as cornerback Taurien Allen know the importance of creating team unity during camp.

"It's a family atmosphere," said Allen. "Everyone knows their role, we are much more cohesive than last year, and everyone has respect for one another. We all know what our potential is this year and everyone is a lot more upbeat than in years past."

The Hawks training camp schedule has been slightly altered from last year and the result has been a much healthier and athletic team than in previous years.

"We have adopted a new game plan in regards to practices," explained Allen. "We practice in the mornings and have the afternoons off to recover."

The team has two practices daily, consisting of conditioning, scrimmages and specials. There are also team luncheons, dinners and meetings, as well as the newly tailored playbook to be memorized by all team members.

But the rigorous two-week schedule isn't the only work the players do to prepare for the season; much of the work takes place in the off-season. "I was running throughout the summer and lifting weights with a trainer to get ready," said Sapone.

With how overwhelming training camp and the expectations of a new season can be, it's important to have an influence like Jeffries to keep the players grounded.

"We don't talk in terms of winning, we only talk about competing," he said. "Right now we're focusing on our game against the University of Toronto, and that's as far ahead as we're looking."

Rookie Hawks to watch in 2008-09



Alex Anthony

Position: Wide Receiver

Height: 6'2

Weight: 190 lbs

Hometown: Victoria, B.C.

Last Team: Mount Douglas H.S.



Nick Sapone

Position: Linebacker

Height: 6'1

Weight: 215 lbs

Hometown: Richmond Hill, ON.

Last Team: Vanier College



NICK LACHANCE PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER
Manager of football operations and head coach Gary Jeffries at August training camp. Jeffries has been part of the Golden Hawks tradition for nearly 40 years.

Getting to know a Laurier icon

JUSTIN FAUTEUX
SPORTS EDITOR

There are few people who can match the passion and dedication of manager of football operations and head coach Gary Jeffries.

The 63-year-old has been a part of the Golden Hawks for nearly 40 years, and his enthusiasm is as strong as ever.

"It's something that I love to be a part of, so it's very easy to stay passionate," said Jeffries.

"Every summer when I come back in August the feeling's still the same. The time I come back and it isn't is when I'll say 'that's enough.'"

Throughout his early life in Burlington, Ontario, sports played a large role in Jeffries' life.

He played football, baseball and hockey at high levels, including high-school football at Nelson H.S., one of southern Ontario's premier football programs.

"When I was growing up, I just went one season to the next; whatever sport was on at the time was the one I'd play," said Jeffries. "I just have a great passion for sports and I always had the ability to do reasonably well."

"Reasonably well" is quite an understatement in describing the success Jeffries achieved in his early sporting career.

After winning multiple championships at Nelson, Jeffries moved on to the University of Guelph where he was a two-sport athlete, playing football and hockey. At the same time, Jeffries played professional baseball in the Detroit Tigers system after being signed when he was 17.

In 1970, after finishing his time at Guelph and playing four years in the Tigers organization, a long-time friend convinced Jeffries to enrol at Laurier – then under the name Waterloo Lutheran University. Jeffries played two years of football at Laurier for legendary head coach David "Tuffy" Knight. After a pair of all-star seasons, the Toronto Argonauts selected Jeffries in the 1972 CFL draft.

After taking part in Argos training camp and later being signed by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, Jeffries, a married man with a child on the way, took a more stable job at Laurier as an assistant football coach and director of recreation.

"I had a very good opportunity in Hamilton, but it wasn't meant to be," said Jeffries. "I think [deciding to

coach at Laurier was the best decision I ever made."

For the next 16 years, Jeffries worked under Knight, and later Rich Newbrough, while coaching Laurier's women's basketball team from 1984-88. In 1989, Jeffries retired from football and took a job as the head coach of the men's basketball team.

In 1994, new football head coach Rick Zmich convinced Jeffries to come out of retirement and take over as the Golden Hawks' defensive co-ordinator. He held that position until 2002 when Zmich left the team halfway through the season and Jeffries took over as interim head coach.

The next year, after 24 seasons on Laurier's football coaching staff, Jeffries was officially named head coach.

"It was quite a surprise," said Jeffries. "It was not something that I ever expected. If it had ended right there and I never got the opportunity to be the head coach, I still would've been happy with the wonderful career I've had here; all this is really just icing on the cake."

In Jeffries' first season as head coach, he led the Hawks to a Yates Cup appearance and took home Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) coach of the year honours. Jeffries would go on to win the OUA coach of the year award in both 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, Jeffries' third season as head coach, Laurier won the Vanier Cup, CIS football's national championship, which Jeffries calls "the greatest sporting moment of [his] life."

"I still get chills when I think about it or watch the tape of the post-game celebration. It was the thrill of a lifetime."

After all the success Jeffries has enjoyed as a coach and a player at Laurier – four provincial championships, a national title and four coach of the year awards – it's not the athletic accolades that he cherishes the most.

"It's the people," said Jeffries.

"The people here really keep me young with the energy and the passion that they have. These kids are playing simply because they love the game and they want to be here."

But above all things athletic, there is one thing that Jeffries holds higher than anything else.

"My children, without question," he said. "I have four great children and six wonderful grandchildren. Family is the biggest part of my life."

Upcoming football games

Mon. Sept. 7 @ 7 p.m.

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Away

Sat. Sept. 19 @ 1 p.m.

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